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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 5.

BOSTON, MASS., FEB. 15, 1902.

NO. 8.

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EDITORIAL HINTS.

Be on time.
Ground Hog!
Aim to excel.
Keep a moving.
Watch for leaks.
Breed for utility.
Don't get excited.
Clean out the rats.
Avoid the all-wise.
It's hustle or bust.
Kill off the drones.
Comfort saves feed.
Encourage the hen.
Keep only the best.
Discharge the idler.
Take a live interest.
Good laying month.
Don't be a sluggard.
Study improvement.
Never too late to cull.
Carelessness is costly.
Work more—talk less.
Resolutions still good?
Do the hens know you?
Begin low—aim for top.
Lock the houses at night.
Patronize our advertisers.
Order your hatching eggs.
Over-enthusiasm is wrong.
Poultry ranks are growing.
Feed and care help records.
Make rules and obey them.
Read the Maine experiments.
February—short but decisive.
Business hens for business men.
Keep in touch with the markets.
Improve rather than change breeds.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Winter is Surely Here—Did it Take You Unawares?—Good Feed and Good Care Now Play an Important Part.

Did the Ground Hog see its shadow? You know the old superstition—that if it sees its shadow on February 2nd it will go back to its quarters and take a six weeks nap. If on February 2nd the sun shone, then the superstition is that the Ground Hog saw his shadow. Those who have faith in the prophecy, at once console themselves with the fact that for six weeks we are going to have real hard Winter weather. We write this on January 29th, so that we don't know anything yet about February weather, but, Ground Hog or no Ground Hog, we believe there are about two months on the calendar of real weather. There must be a certain amount of moisture, and we are going to get it in either snow or rain.

Bad weather means confined poultry, and confined poultry, unless they have plenty of chance to exercise, will be unprofitable. We have our scratching sheds heavily littered, and it is encouraging to see how the fowls work. This exercise means health and profit.

Our record so far for January is way ahead of January, 1901. This is due to our selection of stock—each year we breed from the cream of our flocks. Trap nests help us in this particular. The individual record, secured alone by the use of trap nests, tell us which are the good and which are the bad of the flock.

Overcrowding the pens, especially during the season when the fowls must be more or less confined to the house, is not only detrimental to a good egg yield, but it induces such vices as egg eating, feather pulling, etc. The lesson in successful Winter poultry culture is comfort—unless a hen is comfortable it is unprofitable.

Every year our American class is growing stronger. Not only is this so in regard to the number of varieties, but also in the improvement of what we have got. Note the difference between the old and new strains of Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes—improvements not only in type and

beauty, but in egg yield. Better poultry is the constant aim of the American poultryman.

In last issue of A FEW HENS we gave the report of the Rhode Island Experiment Station, and by some oversight our comment on same was left out.

While we publish the report as a news item, we wish it understood that we do not endorse the report. In some respects we agree with Mr. Taylor, who had charge of the experiments, and in other parts we know him to be wrong. We agree that the double compartment nest is a mistake—we tried both the single and double plans. In using the single nests we had very little trouble in hens breaking the eggs in the nest—in fact we have had more eggs broken in open nests, by hens crowding on nest than we ever had where the traps were used. If there are a dozen open nests in a poultry house, hardly more than three or four will be used. We have found three hens crowded in one nest, and a half dozen empty nests along the same line. In trap nests, the hen takes the first unoccupied nest she can find. Trap nests not only prevent much breakage in eggs, but the hen having the nest alone is not disturbed while she is laying.

Mr. Taylor, however, errs when he says not one of the nests met all the requirements—as size, simple in construction, “so well made that it will not get out of order,” admit only one hen at a time, prevent a second hen from entering, attractive to the hen, adaptability, etc. Now of the list given, we have one that does fill all the requirements Mr. Taylor advances, and many more. That nest is the Ideal. Yet, for some reason or other, Mr. Taylor fails to give Mr. Wellcome's invention much recognition.

In the list of nests, the number of birds trapped, the number of times the nests failed to trap, and the number of eggs laid outside of the nests, we find the figures puzzling. We are told that the Hawkeye trapped 144 birds, and only missed five—while the Ideal trapped but ten, and missed twelve. We are not told how many nests of each kind were used, which might be the cause of changing the result,

On the whole, this report is apt to do more harm than good to the trap nests on the market, and the cause.

Another surprising part of the report is that Mr. Taylor publishes plans for making a nest which he calls the best, and yet in his report this very same nest does very poor work. That part is strange—but that is not all. The Rhode Island Station is a Government affair, and here is a list of inventors who have had their traps patented—paid the Government to protect them—and here is a Government Station telling its followers that these inventions are practically no good. Surely this a mixed up affair.

The Rhode Island report also makes a mistake when it infers that the benefits derived from trap nests do not warrant the labor spent in their operation. In contrast, we this month give an extended report of the experiments tried by the Maine Station, in which they give trap nests the praise for the good results they report. In the use of traps the Maine Station was first in the field, and Prof. Gowell is quite an expert in their use. On the other hand, Mr. Taylor and the Rhode Island Station are new recruits in the trap nest field, and that may account for the inconsistencies published.

Poultry Experiments.

Extracts from Bulletin No. 79, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station—Feeding Chickens for Growth; Coop vs. House and Yard—Incubation of Eggs Stored Under Different Conditions—The Relation of Mating to Fertility of Eggs and Breeding for Egg Production.

Bulletin No. 79, of the Maine Station, is an interesting and valuable one. The main experiment was on feeding chickens for growth.

This test is a continuation of work reported in Bulletin No. 64, where small coops, holding four chickens each, were compared with small pens containing twenty birds of the same age and size. The purpose was to learn if close confinement in small numbers, gives better results than where larger numbers are kept together without close crowding.

The English and French chicken fatteners, who make a specialty of the business, fattening many thousands each year, use small coops holding four or five birds each, and claim advantages for the method. This plan of fattening has been adopted by the Canadian government, and illustrated by it at various places, for the purpose of encouraging the use of better methods by the people. The work has been favorably noticed by the poultry journals of this country, and under this encouragement the method seemed likely of adoption by our poultrymen and farmers. "The coops we used are similar in size and form to theirs, and our food was prepared and fed in the same way as theirs," said Prof. Gowell, "but it was of different composition, as theirs was made largely from finely ground oats in the earlier tests. That our gains with the birds in small coops

were as great as those made by the foreigners is shown by the reports which they have published.

"The coops that we used had each a floor space 16 x 23 inches. They were constructed of laths with close end partition of boards. The floors were of laths placed three-fourths of an inch apart, and one inch from the walls, so that they might be kept clean by the moving about of the birds. The coops were made two together without cutting the laths. The laths ran lengthwise of the coops on bottom, top and back, but on the front they were placed upright, and two inches apart, so that the chickens could feed through between them readily. V-shaped troughs with three inch sides were placed in front of and about two inches above the level of the floor of the coops."

Small coops versus houses and yards.—

Including the test reported in Bulletin No. 64, this Station has made six group trials of close confinement against partial liberty, in fattening chickens. These have comprised the use of 35 separate coops and six houses. Three hundred and twenty-one chickens of different ages have been fed in these 41 lots, in periods of 21, 28, or 35 days each, and the occupants of all coops had weekly weighings.

In eleven of the coops containing four birds each, the gains have been greater than in the houses and yards containing from 20 to 68 birds, with which they were matched. In the 24 other coops, the gains were less than in the houses and yards with which they were similarly matched. In five of the six groups, the gains have been greater in the houses and yards, and in one of the six groups the gain has been greater in the coops.

These results show that close cooping is not necessary in order to secure the greatest gains in chicken fattening, and that the chicken made greater gains when given a little liberty than when kept in close confinement.

The labor involved in caring for birds in small numbers in coops, is greater than in caring for an equal number in a house and yard. The results are so pronounced that we regard them as conclusive.

Relation of age to fattening.—The tables show plainly that with poultry the periods of cheap and rapid gains in weight come early in life. The greatest gains were made in one of the tests reported in Bulletin No. 64, where in feeding a period of 35 days, 40 chickens confined in coops gained an average of 2.23 pounds each, and 20 others of like age and condition fed in comparison in house and yard, gained 2.47 pounds each. The rations which these birds received was partly made up of ground oats, and the feeding period was 35 days in length, instead of 21 or 28 days, as in tests Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7. These conditions probably account for the greater gains which were made.

In tests Nos. 4 and 5, the birds were 95 days old at the beginning of the feeding period, which continued 28 days. The average gain was 1.54 pounds each.

In tests Nos. 6 and 7, the birds were 160 days old at the beginning of the test, which lasted 21 days instead of 28, as in Nos. 4 and 5. They gained .75 pounds each, or about one-half as much as the gain made by the chickens that were 95 days old. The matter of age was not designed as a feature of the tests when planning them, but the results are so marked that they should not be overlooked.

Skim milk as chicken food. In tests 4, 5 and 6, water was used in mixing the meal for feeding, and in 5 and 7, milk was used.

The composition of the mixture in which water was used was 100 pounds of corn meal, 100 pounds of wheat middlings, and 40 pounds of ground beef scraps. The mixture in which milk was used was the same as the water mixture, except that it contained 33 pounds of ground beef scraps instead of 40, as in the water mixture. This difference was made so that the two rations should be equal in digestible protein. Two pounds of milk were used to each pound of the meal mixture.

The use of meat meal in chicken fattening.—Late in the season 40 chickens that were 161 days old, and averaged in weight a little over five pounds each, were divided into ten lots. Each lot of four birds was put into a small fattening coop and fed for 28 days. Those in coops 1 to 5, constituting group 1, were fed from a mixture of 100 pounds of corn meal, 100 pounds of wheat middlings, and 50 pounds of meat meal. Twice daily, as needed for use, porridge was made from this mixture with cold water. Those in coops 6 to 10, constituting group 2, were fed on porridge made from equal quantities of corn meal and wheat middlings. The porridge was also made with cold water.

The average increase in weight of each of the 20 birds fed without meat meal, was .72 pounds, and the average increase of those fed with meat meal, was .92 pounds. Where no meat meal was fed, 12.07 pounds of dry meal produced a similar gain.

This indicates that where one-fifth of the food used was meat meal, a pound of gain in the live birds was made by the use of about one-fifth less weight of food than where no meat meal was used. The mixture containing the meat meal cost 1.15 cents per pound, while the mixture without meat meal cost one cent per pound. Where meat meal was fed, a pound of live weight of chicken was made at a cost of 13.88 cents. Where no meat meal was used a pound of gain cost 14.96 cents.

These tests were made with birds that were advanced in age and growth, and the gains were slow and expensive. In other feeding tests that we have made with chickens that were from 100 to 130 days old, the gains have been much greater, and the costs per pound as small as 5 to 8 cents, when the meal used was reckoned at the same price per pound as in this test.

Some of the influences which may affect the strength of the germ of eggs that are kept some time before being incu-

bated, were studied, by keeping part of them shut up in the dark, in ordinary egg cases for ten days, while another lot from the same hens was kept spread out in open pans, in the light, on a stand beside the darkened case. This gave both lots practically the same temperature of 62 degrees F. They were turned daily. Two pens of hens were selected, and the eggs of each individual were divided evenly into two lots by alternating them in the order in which they were laid. This was readily done as trap nests were used. By taking each hen's eggs as laid, and dividing them by placing alternate eggs in the same lots, a fair division was secured by which it was hoped to avoid the difficulties which might arise from the physical changes which are liable to take place in laying hens.

The eggs were laid between May 25th and June 22nd. After 160 were obtained, they were kept for the next ten days, until June 12th, and then put together in the same incubator, each egg being marked with the number of the hen that laid it, the date and its class. A summary of results showed that of 81 eggs placed in closed cases, 30 hatched, 11 proved infertile, 36 showed development of chick stopped by the twelfth day of incubation, and five showed development stopped between 12th and 20th days. Of 79 eggs kept in open air, 19 hatched, 9 infertile, 41 stopped development on 12th day, and 9 stopped between 12th and 20th days.

From May 25th to June 2nd, all the eggs laid by 24 hens were saved and held ten days, until June 12th, before being incubated. The eggs from each hen were divided into two lots by selecting each alternate one as laid. One of the lots was placed in a room with a temperature of 70 F., and the other lot was put in another room where the temperature was 50 degrees F. There was about the same amount of moisture in each room, and both were equally light. The eggs were in open boxes and were turned each day. The temperatures were steadily maintained through the ten days, at the end of which time the eggs were all put together into the same incubator, where they were subject to like conditions.

Of 66 eggs kept in a temperature of 70 degrees F., 23 hatched, 4 were infertile, 18 died on 12th day, and 22 between 12th and 20th days.

Poultry breeders and shippers of eggs for incubating purposes frequently instruct purchasers to rest their eggs for 24 hours after their receipt before putting them into incubators, claiming better results from eggs so treated than where incubating commenced immediately upon their arrival.

To watch the results of such treatment, all the eggs laid by 26 White Wyandotte hens, from May 25th to June 2nd, were divided into two lots by alternating them as laid by each hen. Part of the eggs laid each day were put in one lot and part in the other.

This, and the alternating of the eggs, was done so as to secure as nearly as possible equal conditions in each lot. Both of these lots of eggs were put in an ordinary shipping case and sent to Orono by express, over the Maine Central and the Bangor and Aroostook Railroads to Houlton and return, and after remaining in the express office at Orono over night, the journey to Houlton and return was repeated. The eggs were on the road and awaiting at the railroad station about 36 hours, and the distance covered was 514 miles. Upon their last arrival at Orono, after transit, they were immediately taken to the incubator room, and one lot put into an incubator with a temperature of 103 degrees, while the other lot was allowed to rest 24 hours, at the end of which time they were put into the incubator together with first lot. The day before hatching was due to commence, one lot of the eggs was removed to another machine, which had the same temperature and moisture as the first one. This was done so as to avoid the difficulties which might arise from the hatching of eggs in the same machine with other eggs that were not due.

Of 65 eggs that were rested, 15 hatched, 17 were infertile, 20 died on the 12th day of incubation, and 13 between 12th and 20th days.

Of 63 which were not rested, 22 hatched, 18 were infertile, 17 died on 12th day of incubation, and 20 between 12th and 20th days.

The following experiment was undertaken to determine how soon after mating eggs became sufficiently fertile to yield chicks. For this purpose there were selected 20 Banded Plymouth Rock hens one year old, that had been laying heavily during the five to seven months preceding, but had not been in the company of male birds since they were young chicks. Late in the evening of May 25, a cockerel of twelve months old was placed in the pen with them and kept there until the close of the test. The eggs laid each succeeding day until June 6th were incubated.

The eleven eggs laid May 26th were all removed, after having been in the incubator eight days. Eight of them were clear and the three others showed light traces of fertility. At the same time the eight eggs laid May 27th were examined, and three of them showed clear, three were slightly clouded, two had strong centers and radiating lines. From these eggs two good strong chicks were hatched on the 20th day of incubation. The best results were obtained from the eggs laid June 2nd, eight days after the

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but fertility counts for little if the chick hasn't sufficient vitality to get out of the shell, and stand the trials of chickhood. Cut green bone promotes both fertility and vitality. Green bone is easily and rapidly cut by the

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introduction of the male bird. From the ten eggs laid that day, ten good strong chicks were hatched and two eggs were completely infertile.

This test shows that eggs become fertile very soon after mating commences. As it was after dark when the cockerel was put in the pen with the hens, it is not at all probable that he mated with any hen until daylight the next morning, May 26th, yet the egg laid by two of the hens May 27th, not more than forty hours after mating, yielded vigorous chicks.

To learn how long after the mating of hens and cockerels has been discontinued, the eggs remain sufficiently fertile to yield healthy chickens, 20 Barred Plymouth Rock hens were selected, and the cockerel that had been mated with them since February 1st was removed on the evening of May 24th, and was not returned again. The eggs laid on May 25th and on each succeeding day, to and including June 6th, were incubated and their fertility noted. Each day's eggs were kept in separate lots in the incubator, so that at the completion of the period all eggs could be accounted for.

On the last day the eggs were saved—June 6th—the male bird had been removed from the pen containing the hens 13 days, and the hens had no opportunity to mate with other males, yet the eight eggs laid that day yielded three good chicks. The 27 eggs laid during the first three days after the removal of the male yielded ten chicks. The 30 eggs laid on the 11th, 12th and 13th days after the removal of the male yielded seven chicks.

While the results show somewhat diminished fertility, it is evident that longer test periods are needed in which to determine the limits of its duration after mating ceases. This work is to be continued with other pens of hens.

To ascertain whether the shapes of eggs have any influence on their chick-yielding capacities when incubated, 25 very long eggs, 25 short, ball-shaped ones, and 25 normal-shaped ones were selected and incubated in the same machine, with the following results: From 25 normal eggs, eight hatched, nine were infertile, and eight died in shell.

From 25 very long eggs, nine hatched, twelve were infertile, and four died in shell.

From 25 short, roundish eggs, seven hatched, eight were infertile, and ten died in shell.

When undertaking this test it was the intention to carry each lot of chicks until their sex could be determined, in order to learn whether the shape of the egg bears any relationship to the sex of the chick it may yield. With that aim all of the chicks were banded and recorded. A barn cat had other plans regarding them, however, in the carrying out of which one night, the question of sex was not considered. Other tests bearing upon this subject will be made.

For several years past the Station has been breeding Barred Plymouth Rock

and White Wyandotte hens, with the hope of increasing the number and improving the size and color of the eggs.

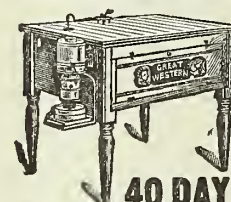
In 1898 trap nests were devised and placed in all of the breeding pens, as described in the 14th annual report of the Station. This was done so that the producing capacities of hens could be known, and selections for breeding could be made upon merit alone.

It is known that the laws of inheritance and transmission are as true with birds as with cattle, sheep and horses, and when we consider the wonderful advance in egg production that the hen has made since her domestication, there is ample reason for assuming that a higher average production than the present can be secured by breeding only to those birds that are themselves large producers. It has been found in our practice with the trap nest, that with the most careful selection we could make when estimating the capacities for egg yielding, by the types and forms of birds, that we were still including in our breeding pens hens that were small workers.

A study of the monthly record sheets not only show great differences in the capacities of hens, but marked variations in the regularity of their work; some commencing early in November and continuing laying heavily and regularly month after month, while others varied much, laying well one

month, and poorly or not at all the next. It is impossible to account for these vagaries, as the birds in each breed were bred alike, and selected for their uniformity. All pens were of the same size and shape, and contained the same number of birds. Their feeding and treatment were alike throughout. Many of the light layers gave evidence of much vitality, and in many instances there were no marked indications, in form or type, by which we were able to account for the small amount of work performed by them.

Every hen that has laid large numbers of eggs through the first and second years, has shown much vigor and constitution. Some individuals have laid heavily for a few months and then drooped and died, seemingly because they could not stand the heavy work. There have been two hens in the pens all of the last year that we have every



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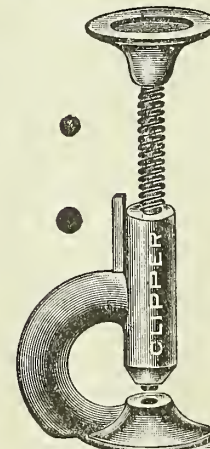
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reason to suppose never laid an egg. It is possible that they may have laid, but with the close watching they have had it is not probable. They are well formed and have always been in good thrift and health so far as appearances have indicated.

Of the four hens that laid over 200 eggs during the first twelve months after commencing, No. 4 laid 201 eggs the first year, 140 the next and 130 the third year, and she is now on her fourth year's work. No. 14 laid 208 eggs the first year, 141 the second year and 28 the third year. She moulted in July, 1900, and met with an accident in August, which came very near ending her existence, but her great vitality enabled her to rally and she shed her feathers again, completely, and grew a second suit that season. She did not begin laying again until the following March, when she laid 28 eggs by the close of May. At moulting time in June she died. She was an upheaved, strong hen, and the first one to give us over 200 eggs in one year. No. 101 laid 201 large brown eggs the first year, 30 the second and 63 the third year. She is now on her fourth year's work. No. 286 was a late hatched pullet, and did not commence laying until February 12, 1899. In a year forward from that date she laid 206 eggs. In the first year, commencing November 1, 1899, she laid 191 eggs, with 157 the second and 138 in her third year. When three and one-half years old she died suddenly, having laid 119 eggs during the last 160 days she had lived.

With many poultry keepers and farmers the idea is prevalent that if a hen lay but few eggs the first year, she is likely to do better the second year than though she laid well during the first year. The data so far secured does not show that hens that yield 120 eggs or less the first year, yield satisfactorily the second year. Those that yielded in the vicinity of a hundred or less the first year, yielded very light in the second year.

Of the 67 hens carried through two years, ten laid more eggs during the second than the first year, and 57 laid more during the first than the second year. We have found it necessary to have the pullets, of the breeds we have used, hatched by the middle of April, at the latest, in order to have them laying by the first of November. They then have a full year for work, before they are removed, the following Fall, to make room for the new pullets that must be in Winter quarters early, if they are to do satisfactory work. If the pullet does not commence laying until January, she does not have a full year before she has to give way to the young stock by the last of October or the first of November.

On November 1, 1900, one hundred April and May hatched Barred Plymouth Rock pullets, and ninety White Wyandotte pullets, hatched at the same time, were put into the house previously described, and treated in the same manner that their predecessors had been during the two preceding years.

Fourteen of the Rocks and seventeen of the Wyandottes died during the year. There was no evidence of disease among them. Up to October 31, 1901, the hundred Plymouth Rocks laid 13,200 eggs; an average of 132 to each bird. Six birds yielded from 200 to 234 eggs each to October 31st, and in the same pens were six of their mates that laid only between 23 and 70 eggs each. There were six others that yielded over 200 eggs each before the first year of their laying was completed, making twelve hens that each laid 200 eggs or over, during the first year, out of the hundred put into the test at the commencement of the year. The best work by any hen since we have been selecting the breeding stock by the present method, was done this year by No. 617, who gave her first egg November 29th, 1900, and to November 28th, 1901, she laid 251 eggs. The ninety White Wyandottes laid 11,184 eggs to October 31; an average of 124 to each one. Six birds yielded from 203 to 233 eggs each. The six poorest layers gave yields between 36 and 65 eggs each.

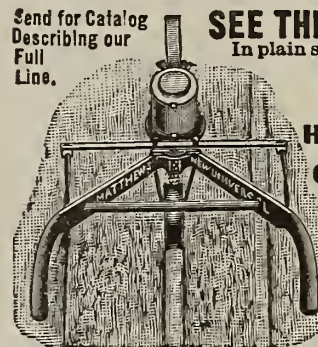
During the three years in which we have been selecting breeding stock by the use of trap nests, we have found thirty hens that laid between 200 and 251 eggs each in a year. Twenty-six of them are now in our breeding pens, and constitute—until other additions are made to them—the "foundation stock" upon which our breeding operations are based. Males for our use have been raised from them during the last two years. The number of the foundation stock, now secured, makes practicable the avoidance of inbreeding, and this is to be strictly guarded against, as it is doubtful if

the inbred hen has sufficient constitution to enable her to stand the demands of heavy egg production.

All of the other breeding stock we are now carrying, are tested hens that have laid over 180 eggs in a year; pullets whose mothers laid over 200 eggs in one year and whose fathers' mothers laid over 200 eggs in a year; and pullets sired by cockerels whose mothers and grandmothers laid over 200 eggs in one year. The size and color of the Plymouth Rock eggs are very fine. The eggs from the Wyandottes are of good shape and size, but as yet too light in color.

(On A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, we found it to be a rule that our heaviest layers gave us a light-colored egg. Is it possible that a fowl has but a limited amount of pigment to color eggs?—Editor A. F. H.)

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Describing our
Full
Line.



SEE THE SEED DROP.

In plain sight of the operator.

MATTHEWS' New Universal
(Improved for 1902)
HAND SEEDERS AND CULTIVATORS.

Used by the most successful gardeners. They do perfect work. Open furrow, drop seed, cover any desired depth. Cultivating attachments. Latest and best. Popular prices.

AMES PLOW CO.,
71 Market St. BOSTON.

Choice CUT CLOVER

The best on the market, cut in one-eighth inch lengths and all long stems sifted out. The best and cheapest egg food you can buy. \$1.25 per 100 lbs.; \$5 per 500 lbs.; \$10.00 per 1,000 lbs.; \$20 per ton.

100 Red Belgian Hares, \$1 to \$2 each. 300 first-class White Wyandottes, yearlings and young stock, \$1 to \$2 each. Catalogue. Order at once.
C. A. STEVENS & CO., Box 7, Wilson, N. Y.

The Way They Like It.

Some bone cutters gouge bones into chunks, hard for fowls to swallow. Others crack bones into splinters and slivers, fatal to fowls. The best bone cutter—that's always the

Stearns

reduces the bone to a fine granular meal, which fowls of all ages enjoy and thrive on. Our

New Model No. 7

With Ball-Bearings,

is without question, the easiest running, most rapid cutting machine made. Don't buy a cutter until you have investigated this new model.

Ball-bearings make it turn easily. Back-gear 3 to 1, makes it powerful and rapid. Automatic feed; entirely self-regulating. We make eight other models for hand and power.

"How to Make Poultry Pay" is our new book, full of timely hints and suggestions. May we not send you a copy?

E. C. STEARNS & CO., BOX 5, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

"Don't keep hens—make them keep YOU."

Our Brevity Symposium.

Readers of A FEW HENS are Invited to Answer Questions that Monthly Appear in These Columns, as Well as to Ask Questions to be Answered.

No. 120.

What is the cause of worms in poultry, and how do you treat your fowls so afflicted?
Never had any trouble that way.—N. A. Taylor, Clinton Hollow, N. J.
Never had any trouble of that kind.—Frank B. Ausley, Cheshire, Conn.
Caused by giving too much meat.—Matt G. Robson, Port Leyden, N. Y.
Never had a case that I knew of.—Harry C. Numan, Cape Porpoise, Me.
Too much meat, or other rich diet.—Austin Long, Pittsburg, Kans.
Over-supply of animal food and lack of green food. Very few cases here. We have corrected the trouble by a green food or vegetable diet, and a little turpentine in drinking water.—Homestead Poultry Farm, Hopkinton, Mass.

* * *

No. 121.

How do you treat "slight colds?"

Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, given with a medicine dropper.—Homestead Poultry Farm.
Run a little kerosene in nostrils and around the eyes, with finger.—Austin Long.
I use ten drops of tincture of aconite to a quart of drinking water, or I dissolve one cake of common hard soap (12 ounces) in two quarts of water, and put one tablespoonful of this solution in a gallon of drinking water. I like the soap remedy best.—David W. Lawton, Winsted, Conn.
"Slight colds" generally can be easily cured by injecting a few drops of kerosene up the head and down the throat of the birds so afflicted. One or two treatments are generally sufficient.—Harry C. Numan.
I try to avoid it by giving good ventilation, and avoid draughts. If I do have a slight case I leave them alone. For a bad case I chop off the head.—Matt G. Robson.
Feed a little of Pratt's Poultry Food in the mash.—Frank B. Ausley.
I never had a serious case on my hands.—N. A. Taylor.

* * *

No. 122.

How do you disinfect your houses?
Coal oil and carbolic acid for both disinfection and lice.—N. A. Taylor.
Spray once a week with kerosene oil, to which is added five per cent of crude carbolic acid.—Frank B. Ausley.
Whitewash, naphtha, and burning sulphur in the Spring. I move my flock into Summer quarters for about six months.—Matt G. Robson.
My houses are opened up some part of the day the year round, to let in sunshine and pure air. I use kerosene on roosts, and "Death to Lice" in nest boxes and on fowls, and with proper attention to cleaning up droppings, the houses always are clean, and with no bad odors.—Harry C. Numan.
I use liquid lice killer once a month, which with suitable airing daily, and

thorough cleanliness, keep them in good condition.—David W. Lawton.
Scatter slaked lime under the perches, then take a bucket of kerosene and a large paint brush, dip brush in kerosene and give a sling, holding brush in hand. It is almost equal to a hose.—Austin Long.

"Everlasting Lice Killer" does it thoroughly and effectively.—Homestead Poultry Farm.

* * *

No. 123.

What are the advantages and drawbacks to poultry culture in your locality?

Advantages.—High, dry, well-drained soil. Drawbacks.—None that we know of.—Homestead Poultry Farm.

The advantages to poultry culture here in Kansas are in having lots of sunshine, grasshoppers, cheap grain generally, and a fair market. The drawbacks are in having too much wind, and at times too much wet weather or long sieges of hot, dry and dusty weather.—Austin Long.

The advantages are few, and drawbacks many. I am fifteen miles from market and three miles from nearest branch railroad. Market days I have to get up at two o'clock in the morning, drive fifteen miles and serve my private customers, getting home between ten and eleven in the evening.—N. A. Taylor.

Dry soil, with plenty of natural grit; good markets are the advantages. The drawbacks are high prices for feed, and difficulty in getting the kind you want.—Frank B. Ausley.



Great Gift.

That's what we consider our ability to make such a machine as the

Prairie State Incubator.

The people who have used it think the same. The U. S. Department of Agriculture thinks the same. The Judges at 342 shows have thought the same. Everybody thinks so. Our new catalogue No. 64, with fifty tinted plates, four original paintings and 700 half tone illustrations, sent absolutely free. Write before they are all gone.

Prairie State Incb. Co., Homer City, Pa.
Largest Incubator and Brooder Factory in the World.

BROILER EGGS.

White Wyandottes, B. P. Rocks. \$4 per 100. Large size stock. GRACE J. DAY, Greenfield, Mass.

LEGHORNS. Single and Rose Comb White, Single Comb Brown and Buff. 15 eggs for 75 cents; 105 for \$4. Mr. and Mrs. S. Rider, Maryland, Otsego Co., N. Y.

MY BROWN LEGHORNS are great layers. Eggs for hatching from pure bred, farm raised stock. Prices reasonable. Write. Egg Record free. LEE SHORTT, Lower Cabot, Vt.

White Wyandottes

Bred for Eggs and Meat.

They are plump, hardy, vigorous birds, and heavy winter layers. The eggs hatch and the chicks live and grow. We use scratching sheds and get fertile winter eggs. Eggs \$1.50 per 15; \$2.25 per 30; \$6.00 per 100. Can be called for if preferred.

I. J. STRINGHAM,

105 Park Place, New York, or Glen Cove, L. I.

Climate is very cold in Winter, and must keep closed houses for nearly six months. In Summer the climate is in our favor. We are within one and one-half hours ride by train to Utica, with other good cities within easy reach.—Matt G. Robson.

Our greatest advantage, I think, is an exceptionally good market for poultry products during the Summer months, at fine prices. No particular drawbacks, unless perhaps it might be the low prices that rule the rest of the year. That I overcome by securing private customers for strictly fresh eggs at an advance over the price here. They are shipped to a nearby city.—Harry C. Numan.

150 Kinds for 16c.

It is a fact that Salzer's vegetable and flower seeds are found in more gardens and on more farms than any other in America. There is reason for this. We own and operate over 5000 acres for the production of our choice seeds. In order to induce you to try them we make the following unprecedented offer:

For 16 Cents Postpaid

20 kinds of rarest luscious radishes,
12 magnificent earliest melons,
16 sorts glorious tomatoes,
25 peerless lettuce varieties,
12 splendid beet sorts,
65 gorgeously beautiful flower seeds,
In all 150 kinds positively furnishing bushels of charming flowers and lots and lots of choice vegetables, together with our great catalogue telling all about Teosinte and Pea Oat and Bromus and Speltz, onion seed at 60c. a pound, etc., all only for 16c. in stamps. Write to-day.

Salzer's Magic Crushed Shells.
Best on earth. Sell at \$1.35 per 200 lb. bag; \$3.75 for 500 lbs.; \$5.50 for 1,000 lbs.

JOHN A. SALZER SEED CO.,
La Crosse, Wis.

Exchange. Star Incubator for Mann Bone Cutter, turkeys, geese or cash. Stringham, 105 Park Pl., N. Y.

BUFF ROCKS. Incubator eggs \$4 per 100. Echo Poultry Farm, Windham, N. Y. E. Stimpson, Prop.

VERMONT MAPLE SYRUP. Warranted pure. \$1.20 per gallon. Order early. Lee Shortt, Lower Cabot, Vt.

SHADY LAWN FARM fills orders for incubator eggs promptly, from Barded Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, S. C. White Leghorns. \$4 per 100; \$35 per 1,000.
J. O. GABRIEL, Shelly, Pa.

WHITE WYANDOTTE
EGGS 75c. PER 13; \$3 PER 100.
J. W. Bromley & Son, Dudley, Mass.

BRED FOR EGGS and MEAT.

That we may secure the best proportioned carcasses, with the most and finest meat qualities—together with great egg records, we so mate our stock that the young will be strong followers, if not superior, to the parent stock. We use none but strictly hardy, vigorous birds in our breeding pens—keeping as close to the Standard requirements as is consistent for good health and profit—utility being our aim. The result is, we have good fertility, rapid growth, hardy constitutions, and vigorous young stock.

We use Trap Nests,

thus enabling us to pick out our best layers, and each year we mate only the cream of the flock.

LIGHT BRAHMAS. Grand Winter layers. Eggs for hatching—\$2.00 per 15; \$5.00 per 50.

WHITE WYANDOTTES Eggs for hatching
S. C. WH. LEGHORNS from either variety,
BAR. PLYM. ROCKS \$1.50 for 15; \$4 for 50.

Selected brown eggs of **WH. WYANDOTTES**, \$2.00 per 15; \$5.00 for 50.

Address:

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, Atlantic Co., New Jersey.

The advantages are proximity to good markets; soil adapted to poultry raising; prices good. Drawbacks.—Extreme cold in Winter; difficulty in securing satisfactory helpers.—Robert Atkins.

No. 124.

What combination do you find the most profitable with the poultry business?

Fruit growing.—Robert Atkins.

Eggs for family use; for hatching in the Spring season; and what market stock I can raise in excess of keeping up my laying hens. Use thoroughbred stock only.—David W. Lawton.

At this time, the beginning of my second year on the farm, I hardly know what is the most profitable combination. I hope to be successful with small fruits and general farming in a small way.—Harry C. Nunan.

Poultry, small fruit and gardening.—Matt G. Robson.

Eggs and broilers.—Frank B. Ausley.

Butter, hams, shoulders, bacon and fruits. Butter I buy of farmers, selecting the very best butter makers. Small hams, etc., I cure and smoke myself from home-raised corn-fed pigs, weighing from 100 to 175 pounds each. So hams are small, which sell well to private families at 16 cents; bacon, 14 cents; shoulders, 12 cents. I received last year 17 cents as lowest price for eggs, and 37 cents as highest price. I sell nearly all I produce to private families.—N. A. Taylor.

Poultry and hogs.—Austin Long.

Both business and exhibition White Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds.—Homestead Poultry Farm.

No. 125.

How often do you introduce new stock in your flocks, and how do you do it?

Every year one new mate to each 25 hens, keeping one of my own males for some hens. Next year put my own male, buying or raising a new one not related to the hens to take his place. In that way I keep one male, if a good breeder, two years.—Austin Long.

Every year—either by purchasing males from other breeders, or from purchased eggs.—N. A. Taylor.

Every year new male birds.—Frank B. Ausley.

I try every year to do so, but do not always. If after sending for a setting of eggs the cockerels do not please me, I hold to my old strain.—Matt G. Robson.

Annually, in some parts of it. Have no set rule. Sometimes get eggs and raise stock; sometimes purchase it.—Robert Atkins.

No. 126.

How do you protect your stock from rats and other enemies?

Houses have board floors, and the windows are screened. Brood coops the same. No loss from rats.—David W. Lawton.

I always got clear of rats with meal and plaster of Paris, leaving water around, until a year ago a neighbor left his place that was overrun with rats, when the meal did not do the trick altogether. But with shotgun and traps

set under feathers, earth and other things, I got clear of them. It took three months to do it.—Matt G. Robson.

One of my poultry houses—sixty feet long and ten feet wide, has fine wire netting fifteen inches below bottom of earth floor, and brought up to the sill on each side. The other house was built where the rock covers within one foot of the surface of the ground. So I dug down and put a board from sill down to the rock. Young chickens I place in coops with bottoms, and have little doors made of fine wire, which I put on at night. Did not lose a chicken last season from rats or other animals.—Frank B. Ausley.

Have never seen a rat hereabouts. A good dog does the rest.—N. A. Taylor.

Floors in the coops; a target rifle; and three steel traps; besides a cross-bred Scotch Terrier.—Austin Long.

For rats we have plenty of cats that are raised with the chicks. When we notice signs of rats in any of our houses, we shut in a cat at night, giving her a bed to sleep on, and the "varmints" soon disappear. Houses with board floors are supplied, with a cat hole in the foundation, and we are never bothered there. Traps are poor things. A friend told me he kept guinea hens to keep off the rats. He said it was a sure cure, as the noise they made scared them away. It seems to me that the cure is worse than the disease. For hawks we have our collie dogs and gun, but even then we lose some chicks. Skunks have never bothered us, although once in awhile we have to wash one of the dogs.—Homestead Poultry Farm.

New Questions.

127. Would large Bantam cock crossed on Leghorns produce a two and one-half pound fowl?; and would it increase the egg yield?

128. What is the best system of breeding white and light colored feathers out of Brown Leghorns?

129. Which is the most expensive, thirty sitting hens or an incubator and brooder to hatch and raise their full capacity at one sitting?

130. What weight do you understand by the term "condition?" That is, how near is it to the Standard weights given for the several varieties? I mean laying condition.

Belated Replies.

During 1901 we had a profit of \$3 per hen, counting eggs sold at market prices, and eggs for hatching.

We consider a feed cutter, feed grinder (where we can have power), bone cutter and feed cooker, the most useful machinery on a poultry farm.

We use all our hen manure on our garden, cornfield, fruit trees, and for top dressing grass land.

We consider April the best time to start in the business.

It takes from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to start an average sized plant, although a small plant can be started with \$550 to \$1,000, always remembering that good business management and common sense are fully as important as cash.

My most profitable season in the year is usually from October 15th to March 15th.—C. E. Davis, Warner, N. H.

\$2.00 for 100 lbs. Oyster Shells, 100 Grit, 50 Bowker's Animal Meal, 25 Eclipse Leg Bands. New circular. Sumner Johnson, Portland, Me.



CAN YOU SEE

a good thing when it's before you? Of course you can, and when you see the

MANN'S

1902 Model BONE CUTTER

you'll realize that the bone cutting problem is at last solved. It's a machine on entirely new lines; for while it embodies the fundamental principles which have sold more Mann's than all other makes combined, it has so many radical improvements that it throws even the Mann's of a few years ago, far in the shade. Its self-governing automatic feed, making it turn evenly no matter how hard the bone; its hinged open cylinder, its special knives cutting all gristle and meat; its new design, open hopper, enlarged table, new device to control feed make it perfect. You can set it to suit any strength. Never clogs. Sent on

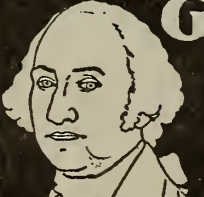
SENT ON TEN DAYS FREE TRIAL.

No money asked for until you prove our guarantee on your own premises, that our new model will cut any kind of bone with adhering meat and gristle, faster and easier and in better shape than any other type of bone cutter. If you don't like it, send it back at our expense. Free Cat'll explain all.

F. W. MANN CO., Box 67, MILFORD, MASS.

Mfgs. of Clover Cutters, Corn Shellers, Swinging Feed Trays, Granite Crystal Grit, Etc.





GEORGE WASHINGTON

had a sure little hatchet; it cut down a cherry tree. Our

LITTLE HATCHIT INCUBATOR

is a sure "hatch it" because it hatches chickens just the same as our larger machines. Made of California red wood, three walls, cold rolled, 12 oz. copper tank. Hydro-safety lamp, Climax Safety heater and celebrated corrugated water regulator. Holds 75 eggs and sold at a low price. Just right for beginners or owners of small flocks. Mammoth Catalogue is now ready; full of practical information, hundreds of actual photographs and testimonials of actual users. Send for one. Write nearest House.

SURE HATCH INCUBATOR CO., Clay Center, Nebr., or Columbus, Ohio.

A FEW HENS.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There are fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Short But Decisive. February is the shortest month of the year, but it never fails to let itself be heard. February makes up what the rest of the Winter seems to lose. February, consequently, is the month of the year that affords more time for the farmer and poultryman to devote to reading. He is compelled to spend more hours indoors, as the weather is such as to make it impossible to do much out of doors. This is the month, then, that the farmer and poultryman get down to planning. The advertisements are read and re-read, and during March and April his orders are sent out. The wise advertiser knows this, and sees that his advertisements are prominent in the papers.

A FEW HENS has been remarkably successful in bringing buyers to its advertisers. It goes to a class that are in the market. It teaches the beginner, and it is the beginner who is on the lookout for goods. Give us your order for March, April and May, and send it in as early as possible.

A glance over our advertising columns will show you at once that we have the medium in which to do business. These advertisers—or at least the majority of them—are with us each year. Would they be with us if it did not pay them? It is not likely. They patronize A FEW HENS because A FEW HENS patronizes them.

Let us have a trial order from you.

New Feed. Here is a novel report for which the *National Stockman and Farmer* is responsible:

"Grasshoppers are being put to a new use in Nebraska. The farmers have killed an incredible number of them by the help of a machine which is perhaps the most effective ever devised for the purpose. It is called a 'hopperdozer,' and is nothing more or less than a large flat pan, with a small amount of kerosene contained in a depression in the rear part of it. The contrivance, being attached to a horse, is pushed along in front of the animal as the latter is driven across the fields. Pretty nearly every grasshopper encountered jumps upon the pan and is promptly suffocated by the kerosene. This ingenious machine has been in use in parts of the west for

a number of years, but hitherto it has not occurred to the farmers to make any use of the dead grasshoppers. Most commonly they were buried, though some enterprising farmers turned them to account by feeding them to poultry. It was found that the hens fed on them eagerly, and the idea was conceived to devote them to a commercial use. The grasshoppers are now left in windrows in the fields after being killed, and they are soon dried. They are afterwards gathered up and conveyed to sheds, where they are put into a cheese press and converted into solid bricks. The bricks are shipped in quantities to poultry raisers, who find them a most satisfactory hen food. Apparently it is a great encourager of egg production. It is not necessary to grind the bricks before feeding them to the hens, but merely to break them into pieces and soften with water."

Corn Feeding. The *Agricultural Epilomist*, which, by the way, conducts an experiment station, thus endorses views so often expressed by A FEW HENS:

"During December, the care and feed of the poultry at the Experiment Station has been about the same as previously reported. The result of the continuous feeding of corn has been as we expected, and also as we desired it should be, very light egg yield. Few hens have laid during December. We are perfectly satisfied that corn alone, fed to hens that do not have full range, is not the food to produce eggs. Corn has its place in the feed ration for poultry, but it must be fed in moderation, and with other feed, if eggs are wanted. Beginning with the first of the year, the feed of our poultry will be changed to an egg ration. Experience has proved that clover hay is one of the best producers known, having more shell-forming material than any of the grains. In 1,000 pounds of clover hay there are nearly thirty pounds of lime, while the same weight of corn contains rather less than one pound. The more clover hay is tried the better are the results obtained. Once begun it will always be found a part of the ration where eggs are wanted. The second crop clover is used where it can be had. This may simply be placed in the yards or houses where the fowls can have full access to it, or it may run through a feed cutter, cut into short lengths and fed in warm mash. We prefer the latter method, as it does not waste so much clover."

Red Albumen. N. A. Taylor, Clinton Hollow, N. J., writes:

"The clipping from the *New York Times*, published in last issue A FEW HENS, sent you by T. M. Wright, has excited my curiosity. I have purchased my Red Albumen powder from McKesson & Robbins, wholesale druggists and manufacturing chemists, 91 Fulton Street, New York City, at 35 cents per pound. I have traded with these people for over twenty years, and believe them to be strictly reliable. I am informed by a neighbor, who is a poultryman, that a wholesale druggist with whom he conversed on the subject,

said that Red Albumen is made from iron, by some chemical process, while Venetian Red, such as is used for paint, is burnt iron. He showed him samples of each, which he said was of different color. I know that Venetian Red, which can be bought for about three cents a pound, in 100 pound lots, is made from burnt iron. I have been to a factory where it is made. I have no doubt that a great deal of Venetian Red is sold for Red Albumen. I will send your paper containing the article to McKesson & Robbins, and write them on the subject, and will let you know the result."

Later on Mr. Taylor writes:

"Enclosed please find reply from McKesson & Robbins, New York City, to my letter. I also enclose sample of Red Albumen powder, such as they furnish me, which comes marked *Albumen Blood* (see label enclosed). I also enclose sample of Venetian Red, which you will see is a different article altogether. This Venetian Red is what I use for wagons, barns, etc. I use it also for poultry, but it is not what they need to furnish the white of the eggs. You can correspond to the parties referred to in the letter. I do not care to do so."

Enclosed in Mr. Taylor's letter is the following from McKesson & Robbins to him:

"Your favor of recent date, also a copy of the paper in which the article appears with reference to Red Albumen, came duly to hand. This preparation has been extensively written on by the Pharmaceutical Era of our city, and we would suggest that you correspond with them, and they will, no doubt, be glad to give you the information desired."

Mr. Taylor enclosed a sample of the Albumen, which is of a yellow color, and looks very much like ground rosin. The Venetian Red is red in color, and has the appearance of powdered brick dust.

Editorial Chit-Chat. Frank B. Ausley, Cheshire, Ct., writes:

"From 70 Single Comb White Leghorns, 23 Barred Plymouth Rocks, and seven White Wyandottes—100 hens in all, I received 12,452 eggs, of which I sold 936 dozen for \$243.66. Also sold \$82.85 worth of broilers and chickens; and estimate the value of the eggs used in the house at \$16.80. Besides I have 66 pullets, which, at only 60 cents each, are worth \$39.60. This makes a total of \$382.91. Paid for feed, \$180.04, leaving a profit of \$202.87. The feed bill includes feed for young stock."

A FEW HENS Experimental Farm received a sitting of White Wyandotte eggs from E. T. Damon, Lancaster, Mass., which are not only of a good brown color, but large in size. They were pullet eggs, and equal in size to any hen eggs of that variety that we have ever seen. In a personal letter Mr. Damon says:

"I send to you with this a sample of what my hens can do. I have been very careful to select the eggs that I use for hatching, and as I set the best eggs, of course the majority of my hens lay large brown eggs. I have improved my stock,

and last year sold eggs to some of the largest dealers in this part of the country. I think now I am able to do something on my own responsibility. My hens are good shape, with yellow legs and skin, and lay large brown eggs. I will be glad to give my experience to any one buying from me, of what I consider the secret of making hens lay early. Or, in other words, Winter layers. I believe the White Wyandottes will give one-third more eggs than most other breeds. This has been my experience, and I haven't the best land for hens either."

* *

Walter L. Mann, Orange, Mass., sends A FEW HENS the following record for 1901.

"Annual record of prize-winning Buff Plymouth Rocks for 1901:

Whole No. eggs laid,	3,117
Average No. hens,	19
Average No. eggs per day,	85
Average No. per hen,	164
Average price per dozen,	25.7 cts.
Average profit per hen,	\$ 2.87
Received, 1901,	101.11
Paid, 1901,	49.58
Total profit, 1901,	51.53
Largest No. per day,	19
Smallest No. per day,	6
Largest No. per month,	414
Smallest No. per month,	153

"Only one day in which I got less than one egg. Does it pay to keep hens? I guess 'yes.'"

* *

Here is a business card that speaks for itself. It shows poultry as a combination, and how the best private trade is secured.

One side of the card reads as follows:

Keep this Card for Future Reference.

PINE ROCK POULTRY RANCH,
Clinton Hollow, N. Y.

N. A. TAYLOR, Proprietor.

Breeder of High Grade Barred Plymouth Rocks and Light Brahmas.

Eggs for Hatching from March 15th to August 1st.

STRICTLY FRESH EGGS

Will be Delivered at Your Door Every Thursday.

Poultry to Order Every Month in the Year.

BROILERS A SPECIALTY.

Orders taken for Butter. Packed Especially for Our Trade.

The other side reads:

"PINE ROCK."

OUR TRADE MARK

is stamped on all our own goods and all other goods we handle, and is a guarantee of *Freshness and Purity*. Our poultry is kept in ranges free from *Dunghill or Hog Pen Filth*, and are fed on a combination of pure grains, prepared clover, fresh ground bone and vegetables; they have no access to barnyard pools, but are supplied with an abundance of pure fresh water, therefore their eggs are *Pure and Wholesome*.

Our Eggs are Warranted to keep fresh much longer than ordinary farm eggs that are otherwise produced.

Our goods will always be as reasonable in price as circumstances will permit for *Spot Cash*. We do not pretend to compete in price with parties who sell eggs of uncertain birth or age.

N. A. TAYLOR, Prop.,
Clinton Hollow, N. Y.

In December A FEW HENS, there was a mis-print in Matt G. Robson's reply to a Symposium question. We made Mr. Robson say:

"Cannot say for White Wyandottes, but from Brown Leghorns have received thirty dozen eggs from eight early-hatched pullets during November, and they kept up a little better during December. But when it got colder in January, February and March, their record fell off considerably."—Matt G. Robson.

In the January number we made the correction that it should read "November and December," instead of November alone.

Quite a number of readers have written in regard to this, which shows that they are after facts, and look to the bottom of every calculation.

That's the right way to do.

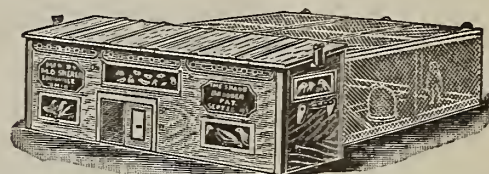
* *

Samuel Bassett, Winterport, Maine, writes: "I used to take five poultry papers, but dropped them all but A FEW HENS. They were filled up with stuff

like the clipping I enclose, which I take from the *Feather*. His average of 63 eggs would not begin to pay me for mine's feed. If a man has a flock of hens that are laying well, let him tell us all about how he feeds, what breed they are, so that we can learn something."

The article which Mr. Bassett takes exception to is as follows:

"The summary of a full year's poultry culture by my methods shows as follows, from October 1, 1899, to September 30, 1900: Largest number of hens per month, 205; smallest number, 143; average number of hens for twelve months, 170; eggs laid, 10,691; average eggs per



The Manufacturer of the Shaub Compartment Brooder is not offering something for nothing, but does offer the best brooder in the world for the money. The best is always the cheapest. Illustrated cat. 4c. in stamps. M. O. Sherer, Box 22, Louisville, O.

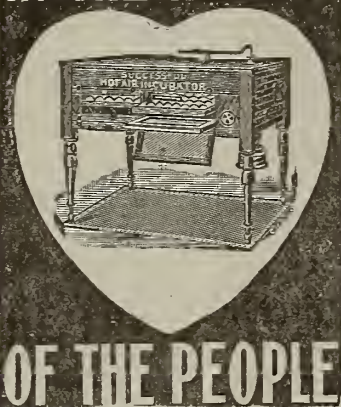
Greider's Fine Catalogue



of prize winning poultry for 1902, printed in colors, illustrates and describes 50 varieties of poultry; gives reasonable prices of eggs and stock. Many hints to poultry raisers. Send 10c in silver or stamps for this noted book.

B. H. Greider, Florin, Pa.

IN THE HEARTS



OF THE PEOPLE

The Successful Incubators and Brooders

are primarily the machines for the people. No need of your being a mechanic to make success of the chicken business with the **Successful**. Simple, sure, safe. Fill it with good eggs, and it does all the rest. Our new catalogue makes everything clear. It is a beauty. Five different editions in five different languages. We send you the English edition for only 4c, others are free.

Des Moines Incubator Co.,

Box 423, Des Moines, Ia., or Box 423, Buffalo, N. Y.
Address nearest office.

BRED TO LAY EGGS AND TO WIN.

S. C. R. I. REDS

S. C. WH. LEGHORNS.

WON 1st cock, 1st and 2d pullets, on Leghorns, in a hot class at Lynn, Mass., 1900. Also 1st for doz. large eggs. First pen fowls, 1st pen chicks, on Reds, over thirty birds competing, at Kennebunkport, Me., Oct. 3, 1901.

EGGS from hardy, vigorous prize stock, 15, \$1.00; 50, \$3.00. HARRY C. NUNAN, Cape Porpoise, Maine.

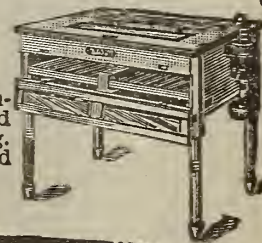
200-Egg Incubator for \$12.⁸⁰

The simplicity of the Stahl incubators created a demand that forced the production to such great proportions it is now possible to offer a first-class 200-egg incubator for \$12.80. This new incubator is an enlargement of the famous

WOODEN HEN

recognized the most perfect small hatcher. This new incubator is thoroughly well made; is a marvel of simplicity, and so perfect in its working that it hatches every fertile egg. Write for anything you want to know about incubators. Send for the new free illustrated catalogue.

CEO. H. STAHL, Quincy, Ill.



hen, 63; highest number of hens laying in any month, 159; lowest number, 25; average number of layers per month, 95; highest number not laying any month, 135; lowest, 39; average number not laying per month, 75; average eggs per laying hen for twelve months, 112 1-2; value of eggs, \$238.43; value of fowls sold and used, \$63.25; total receipts, \$301.68; cost of food, \$179.50; net receipts, \$122.18; average per 170 hens, 72 cents each; average per 95 layers, \$1.28 each."

"The above clipping is from the *Country Gentleman*. It is a part of a report made by Mr. Wallace P. Willett. This record shows that considerable care and attention has been given the hens, and while the result is far below the general average of laying hens, it shows what can be made from the proper care of fowls. The most interesting part of this report is given below:

"Hatching record.—Number of eggs set, 2,782; number of chicks hatched, 625; value of eggs, \$58; cost of feed to September 30, 1900, \$40; value of chicks sold, \$52; net cost of 150 chicks on hand, September 30, 1900, \$46.

"This record shows that about twenty-three per cent of the eggs set produced living chicks, or a loss of seventy-seven per cent of all eggs set. This enormous loss of infertile eggs is a question for consideration, for the facts are that this condition is by far more general than is admitted. We hear complaints of poor hatches from eggs that are sold for hatching. If the above is a fair sample of home production, what can those who buy for hatching hope to secure?"

John Rosenthal, Provincetown, Mass., sends his record as follows:

"January 1, 1901, commenced with 80 hens—20 Plymouth Rocks and 60 Rhode Island Reds. From these I received 677 dozen eggs, for which I got \$230.78. Sales of chickens and hens amounted to \$58.29. Total receipts, \$289.07. Paid for labor, grain, vegetables, grit, powder, etc., \$137.89. This leaves a profit of \$151.18. How does this report compare with the average?" (It is above the average, as the profit, per hen, is nearly \$2 per head.—EDITOR).

Chas. K. Nelson, Hammononton, N. J., is a breeder of White Wyandottes. During the past year he received 16,029 eggs from 140 hens. For table eggs he received an average price of 23 cents per dozen. The account is as follows:

Stock sold.....	\$138.90
Eggs sold.....	275.33
Hatching eggs sold.....	26.00

Total.....	\$440.23
Cost of feed.....	248.45

Profit..... \$191.78

Young stock on hand:

30 cockerels.....	\$ 30.00
135 pullets.....	135.00

Total.....	\$165.00
Profit added.....	191.78

NET RECEIPTS..... \$356.78

This gives an average of about \$2.50 per hen.

S. C. Rhode Island Reds, Barred Plymouth Rocks, S. C. Brown Leghorns, S. C. White Leghorns, Light Brahmas. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. J. ARTHUR RADDIN, Cliftondale, Mass.

The 1902 catalogue of the Prairie State Incubator Company, Homer City, Pa., is the best that has yet come to our desk. The color work is exceptionally good, and shows skill in that direction. It seems to be the aim of this company to constantly improve in its advertising matter, and no better example of this advancement can be given than the 1902 edition of their catalogue. This costly and handsome book will be sent free to all interested, if they will mention that they saw this notice in A FEW HENS. The Prairie State incubators and brooders have not only held the laurels they won in years past, but have made so many additions since, that a book even as large as the 1902 edition cannot begin to record them all.

A strong competitor in the incubator world is the Cyphers machine, manufactured at Buffalo, N. Y. Their 1902 book contains 164 pages, printed on heavy calendared paper, and illustrated

Brookside Poultry Farms

NELSON, PA., has fertile eggs. Each range only has ten to fifteen hens and cock separate. Nearly all varieties are located and cared for separately. Write for catalogue, all varieties, at once.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Eggs for hatching from superior stock. Heavy laying strain. Bred for business. Orders booked now. \$1.25 for 15. LAKE VIEW POULTRY FARM. JAMES H. ENNIS, Proprietor, R. F. D. Route No. 3, West Chester, Pa.

Scrubs Don't Pay

But my White Wyandottes do. Eggs from prolific layers. Strong, vigorous stock, at \$1 per setting. NATHAN WEST, Cobalt, Conn.

PINE ROCK strain Light Brahmas. Eggs 20 for \$1.00. PINE ROCK POULTRY RANCH, Clinton Hollow, N. Y. N. A. Taylor, Proprietor.

FOR SALE. Ten-Acre Poultry Farm, two dwellings, 300 laying hens, stock and fixtures, cheap for cash. J. F. CLARKE, West Southport, Maine.

EGGS.

That's what you want, from Bock's pure bred Barred Plymouth Rocks. Bred for heavy laying, combined with large carcasses. \$1.50 per sitting. Incubator eggs, \$5 per 100. W. H. BOCK, R. D. No. 1, Carnegie, Pa.



THE IDEAL TRAP NEST

SHOWS THE HEN

THAT LAID THE EGG.

Reliable, convenient, simple, inexpensive.

This is the trap nest that you have been waiting for.

IT IS PRACTICAL.

Used in more large flocks, and endorsed by more practical users that know, than any other trap nest on earth.

Ideal Egg-Record Sheets,
Ideal Aluminum Leg Bands.

The best of everything for the Record Keeper
Circulars free. Satisfaction guaranteed.

F. O. WELLCOME,

YARMOUTH, MAINE.

with photo engravings. We published a lengthy notice of this book in our last issue, to which we refer our readers.

Just why that excellent journal, *Commercial Poultry*, will insist on claiming to have published the first poultry daily, we cannot understand. It must be that the editor never knew that H. H. Stoddard did the same thing at Boston in 1887.

A FEW HENS is pained to record the death of Morgan Bates, former owner of the *American Poultry Journal*. Mr. Bates was the peer of poultry newspaper editors. His articles were clean, clear and instructive. He was never unkind in his remarks. Although we never met him personally, yet a strong friendship always existed with him, brought on by business and personal correspondence. We always found him a man of his word, and no more fitting tribute can be given his memory than that expressed by Editor Holmes, in *Poultry Monthly*: "A gentleman first, last and all the time."

WHO SAYS utility White Wyandottes cannot win prizes? Ours won their share of firsts and specials at Winter shows and Boyer's contest gave us first on eggs. Egg record 242—What more? Some fine dark eggs from winners, \$2 per sitting. HOMESTEAD POULTRY FARM, Hopkinton, Mass.

ROSE Comb Brown Leghorns, Kulp 242-egg strain. Single Comb White Leghorns just as good, and large White Wyandottes, Duston strain. 15 eggs \$1. Miss Ella L. Waltman, Laddsburg Pa.

Barred Plymouth Rocks

Thompson strain. R. C. B. Leghorns, Benedict and Kulp strain. Eggs in season, \$1 per 15; \$2 for 35. Some very fine Leghorn cockerels, \$1 to \$3 each. RIVERSIDE POULTRY FARM, Box 81, Au Sable Forks, N. Y.

POULTRY PAPER, illust'd, 20 pages, 25 cents per year. 4 months' trial 10 cents. Sample free. 64-page practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers. Book alone 10 cents. Catalogue of poultry books free. *Poultry Advocate*, Syracuse, N. Y.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,

White Wyandottes and

Belgian Hares.

Bred to lay eggs and to win. Write for just what you want. We can send it.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

RABBITS

The only low-cost book on the Rabbit ever published to our knowledge, is "The Rabbit: How to Select, Breed and Manage the Rabbit and Belgian Hare, for Pleasure or Profit," by W. N. Richardson, a man of long experience with Rabbits. Third edition now ready, nicely illustrated, enlarged and much improved with breeders' directory. Price 25 cts. or with AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE one year 40 cts. CLARENCE C. DEPUY, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y.

Green Cut Bone.

We have a capacity of putting out 1000 pounds a week. Guaranteed fresh and strictly first-class. Graduated price list: 10 lb. box, 75c.; 20 lbs., \$1.25; 50 lbs., \$2.75; 100 lbs., \$4.00. f. o. b. Orders promptly filled. BURRELL BROTHERS, Butchers, 18 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Green Bone Prize Article.

This contribution to the Farmer's Voice, by W. F. Adams, Yoal, Tex., awarded the Grand Prize \$100—as the best of 27 submitted. Judges: F. L. Kimmey, Pres. American Poultry Association, Miller Purvis, Editor Commercial Poultry, F. H. Shellabarger, Poultry Judge and Fancier.

My experience with cut bone as a food for fowls extends over two years only with a flock of 100 hens. Prior to that time I had not used cut bone, and my article is based on the percentage of gain in the growth, health and eggs of fowls over the two years previous, when I did not use bone; all the other conditions for the four years being about the same.

My attention being called to the value of fresh cut green bone as a food for poultry, I determined to experiment. I crushed some hog bones as best I could, and fed it to layers. The result was so satisfactory I bought a small bone cutter and began to feed green cut bone to my poultry regularly twice a week. I tried all sorts of bones and have found the hog and beef bones the best, being easier obtained and containing more of the nutritive value.

I get a soup bone of the butcher, shave off the meat (a little meat won't hurt if you intend feeding as soon as cut) and I feed the same day it is cut.

Some people make the mistake of using bones that have been boiled or

lain out and sun bleached. Some of the most essential feeding value of the bone has thus been lost, especially as feed for growing chicks. The animal, as well as the mineral qualities of the bone, is what makes it valuable. I experimented with cut chicken bone a little and fancied I saw an improvement over the other bone, but I am not sure, and even though there be, it is not convenient to get green chicken bone. Be sure that the bones used are not those of animals that have died of disease, old age or starvation. The former two are dangerous to the health of fowls, the latter worthless. Bones of young animals are best.

For growing chickens, after two weeks old, I mix the bone meal with corn chops, dampened with curd milk (water will do), so that each bird gets from a half to one teaspoonful of the bone meal, according to age.

It is an excellent bone food for the fowl and general invigorator and growth forcer.

Extra large and quick growth bone in fowls means more meat, and more meat means 7 to 10 cents per pound.

For laying hens I feed mixed as above, only that each hen gets one tablespoonful twice or three times a week, according as I think they may need an extra allowance. They need more when they are laying regularly or molting.

The results of the bone as a feed is seen in a very few days in the renewed vigor, health and appetite, and last, but not least, egg product.

Taking every advantage gained by feeding bone—i. e., general health of flock, quick growth of broilers, increase in amount of eggs, etc., over the two years bone was not fed, I figure it—and I keep close accounts—that the profit derived is 15 per cent over the profits of the two preceding years. This 15 per cent is attributed to the bone feed, and the other increase in profits was credited to the source from which they came.

Now don't feed an overdose at first, or at any time; feed regularly.

Don't expect the hens to lay two eggs daily, and the young chicks to spring up in one night like mushrooms, when they are fed bone. Mix well with the other food so that each bird gets its proportionate share.

Don't expect to feed bone only. The bone is only an additional feed, a sort of tonic.

Now I am not going to go into detail to explain how the bone assists—couldn't if I wanted to—only to say that the component parts of all meat bones are the same, and the mineral part of bone may be found in egg shells. Bone and shells must be supplied from what the fowl eats, hence we feed it to them, directly in the shape of cut bone, instead of indirectly, in the shape of corn, oats, etc.

A Chicken Chorus

*"It's All Right! It's All Right!
An Incubator That Is Out of Sight!"*



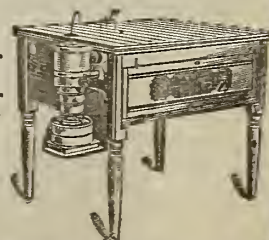
The chickens do not really say it but they feel it, and their owners say it over and over. The

"All Right" Incubators

Sold on 40 Days' Free Trial

are such good machines, such perfect hatchers, so simple in operation, so durable in construction, that we gladly send them to any one on 40 days' free trial. Take off a hatch and then decide whether you want the machine or not. Isn't that "all right?" We couldn't do it if our machine wasn't all right. Send for book explaining why it does such good work. It's free.

CLAY PHELPS INCUBATOR CO.,
Station 77 Cincinnati, Ohio.



Belated Odds and Ends.

Here are Some Odds and Ends That Came too Late to be Classified, but Interesting Nevertheless.

John E. Palm, Round Rock Texas, writes: "For the past month I have been finding from one to four eggs a day in my hen houses that had a small hole picked in the side of them. I watched every day to find out what hen did the mischief, although I hardly attributed it to the hens, as the hole in the eggs was so small, and in every case the yolk was broken. This morning I went to the hen house and caught the marauder in the act of eating an egg, and, to my surprise, it was a red-bellied woodpecker. It did not hear me coming until I was within a few feet of where it was. I also found eggs several times in a little house in which I kept some Rhode Island Reds. It had begun to worry me a little until I caught up with him, and had the pleasure of 'pecking' him off a limb with my 22-calibre rifle."

Fred. A. Hanaford, South Lancaster, Mass., writes: "I use for breeders mostly yearling hens that have made good records in their pullet year. In order to get the best results, I like to have them take a vacation for three months or so before the breeding season, and so put them out in colony houses, in October or November. These houses have scratching sheds attached. I try to feed these birds so they will not lay much till about the 1st of March. Feed one quart of whole grain to seventeen hens (one-half wheat, one-fourth cracked corn, one-fourth oats) in the litter in the sheds night and morning. They have no mash or meat in any form during the Winter, but about two weeks before the eggs are wanted for hatching, I begin to feed a mash at night made up principally of bran, clover meal and beef scraps or cut bone. Cabbage, turnips, mangels or cut clover are fed at noon, about three times a week, during the Winter. This way of handling the breeders during the Winter gives me plenty of eggs during March, April and May, just when I want them for hatching, and best of all, the chickens are hustlers from the hatch to the hatchet."

(Mr. Hanaford is a regular advertiser in A FEW HENS, and has reached the 219 egg record. We advise our readers to look up his advertisement on last page of January issue.—EDITOR.)

The poultry business is different from other kinds of business. With most business occupations facts and figures do not vary to such an extent as they do in the poultry raising business. It is well enough to keep account of the expenses and the sales and to plan ahead, but when an inexperienced hand bases everything on figures he invariably gets disappointed. Figures alone in the poultry business will make a man rich mighty quick. If he

has the money and spends it as his figures seem to justify, he is a goner. All the good advice in existence could not save him. We have all heard about the "chicken fever." With a great many it is a joke, but it's no joke with me, it is a solemn reality. I was stricken with it some twenty years ago; it came on unexpected. I had been exposing myself on the warm side of a hay stack, watching the hens hunting nests. It had been a long, hard Winter, and when Spring opened up the weather was fine. We had some 200 hens, and in a few days we were getting from ten to fifteen dozen eggs per day. It seemed like the hens commenced all at once. Yes, I got the hen fever and a bad stroke, too, at that. I soon vacated the warm side of the hay stack, and took up a position in the house where it was more convenient to figure. Inside of ten days I was a rich man. The small flock of 200 hens was just fooling along. I procured all the books and guides I could hear of and was ready for business.

Yes, a hen would earn as much as a cow. The figures said so, and figures won't lie; but I am here to say that figures do lie,—I mean practically so. Well, I fooled along with the figures, and neglected my hens until they quit laying and went to dying off, then I hunted up all the books I could find on poultry diseases, and went to doctoring. Like General Grant, I let no guilty one escape, and instead of ploughing up the corn ground, and helping my wife in the garden, I was practicing medicine among the hens. Those that hid out were about the only ones that survived the siege.

As far as results were concerned, my whole season's work was a failure, neither my farming nor poultry rais-

THIRTY RHODE ISLAND RED EGGS \$1.50

To accommodate customers who want to try the utility qualities of Rhode Island Reds, who care nothing for color of plumage or the kind of comb, and who judge a breed solely by the contents of the egg basket, and by the dressed stock on the block, we will sell eggs from the **COMMON UNIMPROVED EGG FARM RHODE ISLAND RED HENS** MATED TO MALES OF OUR BEST BLOOD at the above price. Eggs will be of good size and color, and have thick shells. There is, however, as much difference between this sort of stock and our best bred strains, as regards beauty of plumage and uniformity in breeding, as there is between any mongrels and the modern pure breeds. If you want good lookers with generations of careful breeding back of them, buy our eggs. Single Comb or Rose Comb variety at \$5 for 15; \$8 for 30; \$20 for 100. Circular free.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN & COMPANY,
deWOLF FARM, PAPPOOSESQUAW.

Bristol, R. I.

NEVER PUT OFF

'till tomorrow, when you have this opportunity to purchase eggs from thoroughbred stock at \$2 per 15. Wh. Wyandottes, Wh. Plymouth Rocks. We have purchased Egg Harbor Farms entire stock of White Rocks.

C. G. BAXTER & SON, Merchantville, N. J.

ing was successful. Along in May I let up on the chicken question, and my wife took up the work with a few scared-to-death hens that were left, and she managed to raise something like 100 late pullets. They commenced laying the following Spring, and she managed to raise the usual number that season. My simple yarn will look out of place alongside of some of the big theoretical figures that are sometimes unloaded on the unsuspecting chicken raisers, but my yarn is true, and more than this I am here to say that over 90 per cent of the poultry in this country is raised on the farms and in the small villages by the women folks. I am equally confident that over 90 per cent of the men's undertakings along this line (without experience) do, and will, come out as I did. I do a better job now in the poultry business; I employ some of my wife's tactics. I can even talk baby talk to a wee crippled chick, or I can manage to get up in the night and help my wife kill a mink or a weasel.

BLAIRSVILLE INCUBATORS

Standard High-Grade Machines

Thousands in successful operation. Scientifically constructed; self regulating; perfect ventilation; even distribution of heat; simple; safe; durable; graceful in appearance; easy to operate and will hatch every fertile egg, producing strong, healthy chicks. Mistakes cost money, take no chances, but buy an Incubator that never fails and is as near perfection as can be attained. Our Brooders are the best. Catalogue free.

THE BLAIRSVILLE INCUBATOR CO.
34 North Street, Blairsville, Pa.



FOR SALE. 200-egg-size Plymouth Incubator; new copper tank. \$18. H. C. Marshall, Mechanicsville, Vt.

FOR SALE. Thoroughbred Buff Plymouth Rock and Buff Leghorn eggs for setting, at \$1 per 13. **WALTER L. MANN,** Orange, Mass.

WHITE Wyandottes exclusively (Hawkins strain). Eggs for hatching \$1.50 per 15, from snow-white stock. Louis Heller, Bridgeton, N. J.

FORMULA for Egg Producer, Lice Killer, White-wash, etc. Send 25 cents for same to **C. P. PUNCHARD,** Framingham, Mass.

LOOK HERE! Buff Wyandottes, W. Plymouth Rocks, R. C. Buff Leghorns. Mattison, Fishel and Crumbling strains. 15 eggs \$1. Stock \$1 up. Leonard A. Waltman, Laddsbury, Bradford Co., Pa.

A FEW good White Wyandotte pullets. Write quick. **H. T. BUSS,** Groveland Station, N. Y.

FOR SALE!

LIGHT BRAHMAS (Felch and Cost strain). Cockerels \$1.25 and \$1.50 each. Pullets \$1 each in lots of two or more. **W. M. & M. W. Poffenberger,** Bakersville (Wash. Co.) Md.

90 Varieties Choice Poultry, Eggs, Pigeons and Belgian Hares. Incubator Eggs \$40.00 per 1,000. Always Choice Stock to offer. All described in our colored descriptive 60-page book, and mailed for 10 cents. **J. A. BERGEY,** Telford, Pa.

Evergreen Poultry Farm.

White Wyandottes, R. and S. C. R. I. Reds. Prolific layers of brown eggs. Eggs \$2 per 13; \$3.50 per 30. Correspondence solicited. Satisfaction guaranteed. **A. H. GERMOND,** Stanfordville, N. Y.

ARATOMA FARM

Katonah. (Westchester Co.) New York.

We have at all times **Choice Stock** for sale. Also **Eggs for Hatching.** Write us your wants.

TO make cows pay, use Sharples Cream Separators. Book 'Business Dairying' & Cat. 247 free. W. Chester, Pa.

We use incubators and brooders now, and in one way and another we have been quite successful in our poultry raising.

Some seasons we managed to raise a thousand or more chicks without seriously interfering with our other work. We live in town now; have two lots to work on. My wife manages to raise a few dozen chicks each season; is a good hand with incubators, and finds a ready market for the chicks as they hatch, at five cents each. Buys the eggs at the grocery stores, and by careful selection she manages to hatch from 60 to 80 per cent of them, and occasionally reaches 90 per cent or more. We are contemplating moving out of town again, and will start a moderate-sized egg farm; will aim to keep about 500 laying hens; will aim to replace the hens with pullets each Fall. While we are doing this we will necessarily have a surplus lot of young cockerels to sell as broilers, the old hens to sell in the Fall, and in one way or another will manage to have something to sell nearly every day in the year. M. M. JOHNSON.

Clay Center, Neb.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Fowls have their favorites.
Illness makes chilled birds.
Keep the hens out of the snow.
Activity brings warmth and health.

Keep the fowls busy during cold days. Take the crabbed rooster out of the breeding pens.

Work is the main factor in successful poultry raising.

If not overcrowded, the hens will not mind the hard Winter in a scratching shed.

Grade your yard so that during the rainy season no water will stand on the ground.

Kindness will work wonders among the fowls. Treat them kindly in all ways and they will appreciate it.

Texas *Farm and Ranch* says: "A full purse is the best nest egg, and a man not worth a cent is a bad egg."

Utility is the science and beauty, the art of poultry keeping, says *Poultry Farmer*, and that's about the size of it.

An increased supply of poultry products of the highest class, would undoubtedly lead to an increased consumption.

Study your subject and throw your heart in your work, and success will attend you, says *National Fancier's Journal*.

Editor Purvis says: "We wouldn't thank the man who lets his fowls roost out of doors or in a cold house to pray for us."

The greater the variety of food the faster the chickens will grow, and the better the hen will lay, providing she is not overfed.

The poultry business is comparatively easy to learn by ambitious, energetic persons, and it is this class alone that will gain marked success.

No need of fixing up some excuse for your neglect of work, says *Practical Poultryman*. Better not neglect it and have no need of excuses.

Many a success in life has been traced to a right beginning. Many a failure was caused by a wrong start, says *Practical Poultryman*. It is not well to start with cheap fowls. Good ones are best to begin with.

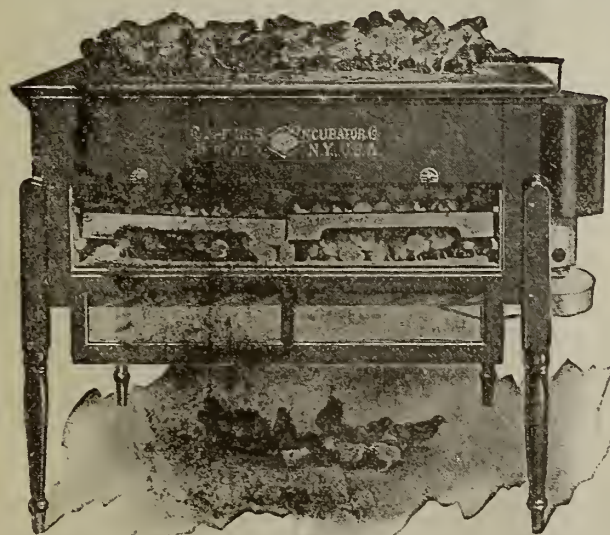
Poultry Monthly says it has been demonstrated that if a large number of fowls can be managed in connection with a dairy or creamery, the refuse and butter milk fed in connection with grain will pay well, and that larger profits can be derived (by thus utilizing waste products) from the hens than from swine.

Taylor, in his "Health by Exercise," says "fat is disease," and whenever a hen in her endeavors to supply her needs, eats too much fat-producing material, like corn (and too much is not needed to keep her warm), then she lays on fat and becomes diseased, unless she goes to setting and starves it off again.

To change the breeds very often is not a good plan. Of course, it is often done when poultry is bred for pleasure, not much attention being given to the profit part. When one is not found to be what a person needs, or is not considered to be of much value to him, it is a good plan to change. But to keep continually going from one breed to another will cut off a large share of the profits, says *Commercial Poultry*. If a careful study of breeds had been made before purchasing, there would have been less reason for a change later on.

HAVEN'T SOLD all my White Rocks yet. They're going. H. D. Hopkins, Montpelier, Vt.

GOLD MEDAL and HIGHEST AWARD At the Pan-American, October, 1901, were placed on THE CYPHERS INCUBATOR.



Time and time and time again the Cyphers 360-egg machine, in the hands of our customers, has hatched upwards of 300 chicks from 360 untested eggs. Allowing ten chicks to the hen, it would take thirty hens to hatch 300 chicks.

THE EVIDENCE:

"My largest hatch was 345 chicks out of 360 eggs."—J. F. Ramsey, Mortonville, Pa.

"I got 305 chicks out of 318 fertile eggs."—Edw. Sharp, Genoa, N. Y.

"I hatched 314 chicks out of my 360-egg Cyphers."—Herman Friedl, Haskell, Ind.

"From 360 eggs we hatched 317 of the brightest, strongest chicks I ever saw."—Frank B. Taylor, Prompton, Pa.

"From my No. 3 Cyphers, holding 360 eggs, hatched 311 chicks."—L. B. Hobart, Lake Crystal, Minn.

"Out of your largest size incubator I hatched 314 good, healthy chicks."—H. Murr, Gordonville, Pa.

"My incubator holds 360 eggs, and from one loading I got 301 chicks."—Jas. C. Myers, Oakes, Pa.

"One hatch I obtained 327 strong, healthy chicks from the 360-egg Cyphers."—Sprague Bros., Florence, Ohio.

Think of the work and worry in caring for the thirty hens it would require to hatch 300 chicks, ten to each hen!

FIVE MINUTES morning and evening will take perfect care of the Cyphers 360-egg incubators. **THIS WE GUARANTEE.**

LITERALLY THOUSANDS of persons in every walk of life are doing as well as the few above quoted, and the smaller sizes of Cyphers Incubators (60, 120 and 220-eggs) do precisely as good work as this largest size; on this you can absolutely depend,

While you are about it, WHY NOT BUY THE BEST and know that you are right.

Illustrated descriptive 32-page circulars, English, German or Spanish, Free on request. Complete catalogue, 196 pages, 8 x 11 inches, 10 cents in stamps for postage. Ask for book No. 29, and address our nearest office.

CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO.,

BUFFALO, N. Y.,
50 Court and Wilkeson Sts.

CHICAGO, ILLS.,
325 Dearborn St.

BOSTON, MASS.,
34 Merchants Row.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.,
8 Park Place.



THE REAL THING.

The above is made from a photograph of a home scene where they are taking off a hatch from a Sure-Hatch Incubator. It is only one of hundreds of views of people using this machine, contained in the 1902 catalogue of The Sure-Hatch Incubator Co.

Mr. M. M. Johnson, the hustling business manager of the concern, goes in for this sort of real thing more than he does for braggadocio statements of the size of his factory, art catalogue, etc. He says it offers actual proof that the Sure-Hatch Incubator can be run successfully under the most natural circumstances and conditions. Mr. Johnson has become well known among the poultry fraternity for his terse, apt sayings, and one of them is, "Folks can't hatch chickens in big factories nor in big catalogues, but in good incubators." This strain of good, hard, common sense runs through the entire catalogue of this company. There are no ambiguous statements either in the catalogue or in the instructions for running the machine, none of that strained effort to make use of heavy adjectives or complex sentences. After reading the book one feels that he has had a good heart to heart talk with a man who knows the incubator and brooder business from A to Z.

From two small rooms in his house, where Mr. Johnson first manufactured his incubators, in 1894, the Sure-Hatch Incubator Company has grown until their factory at Clay Center is probably the largest of its kind in the world, devoted entirely to the manufacturing of incubators and brooders. While the owners do not care whether it is or not, yet this company was 500 to 800 machines behind its orders nearly all last season. During the summer they have made large additions to their factory and machinery, and are equipped to fill orders promptly. Being a Western concern, at first they naturally sold the machines mostly in the West, but the merits of their incubators soon became known all over the country. They have developed such a large Eastern trade that they opened a branch house at Columbus, Ohio.

You can get one of their catalogues by addressing them at Clay Center, Neb., or Columbus, Ohio, and if you are interested in poultry you will do well to send for one of them. They mail them free.

This company does not believe in sending out form letters, but writes personally to every one who writes them, whether it is about their incubators or brooders or the poultry question in general. Anyone writing them can feel assured that he will get a real letter in return.

Please mention this paper when you write.

Utility White Wyandottes

SELECTED EGGS \$2 PER 13.

ROBERT ATKINS,

No. 11 West 22nd Street, New York City.

Plant—Esopus-on-Hudson.

BLACK LANGSHANS Cockerels,
BROWN LEGHORNS \$1.00 each.
Eggs \$1.00. S. W. BRACKNEY, Santa Fe, Ohio.

ADVANCE TRAP NEST

Patented. Is guaranteed to work longer in a pen, where there is litter, than any other without cleaning Circular. W. DARLING, South Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

BIG MAIL for Poultrymen. Insert your name in our Poultry Directory and receive poultry papers, incubator catalogues, etc., every day. Only ten cts. silver. POULTRY DIRECTORY Co., Goshen, Ind.

WHITE P. ROCKS. Heavy laying strain. Some good yearling hens; also sixty pullets, July 1st hatch, cheap if taken at once. Eggs for hatching in season, \$2 per 15; \$3 per 30. W. H. JONES, Jr., East Sandwich, Mass.

LARGE WHITE ROCKS (Hawkins-Kulp strain) and **S. C. Brown Leghorns** (Kulp-Dorsey). Heavy layers; farm raised. Ideal trap nests used. Eggs 15, \$1.00; 100, \$5.00. FRANK HARVEY, Box 7, Lansdowne, Md.

60 cents per dozen. Lt. Brahma eggs. Hens from eggs from Boyer. Felch strain. Cocks from eggs from Silberstein's exhibition pens of pedigree birds. M. E. Hammond, Hackettstown, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. 191 egg strain. Eggs for hatching, \$1.00 for 13; \$4.00 for 100. Satisfaction guaranteed, E. O. SCHAAF, Box 121, Woodbury, N. J.

S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS.

Bred for eggs as well as fancy points. \$1 per sitting of 13. Honest dealing guaranteed. Address, H. N. DINSEN, 117 Barclay St., Perth Amboy, N. J.

MINORCAS.

SINGLE COMB BLACK MINORCAS.

These birds lay the largest and whitest of eggs, and have been bred twelve years for heavy layers. Farm raised, vigorous, handsome.

Prompt replies to inquiries. Moderate prices. Catalogue free. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Mrs. GEO. E. MONROE, Box B, Dryden, N. Y.
Member Am. B. Minorca Club.

Bred for Laying.

White Leghorns,
Buff Leghorns,
White Minorcas,
Pearl Guineas,

Brown Leghorns,
White Wyandottes,
White Guineas,
Pekin Ducks,

Cornish Indian Games.

Eggs for Hatching, \$1.00 per 15; \$2.00 per 40 eggs.
JAMES M. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa.

FRESH VS. DRY BONE AND MEAT FOR POULTRY FOOD.

It is unnecessary to devote either space or time to discussion of the virtue of raw bone and meat in the feeding ration of poultry. There can be no question as to its prime importance for both eggs and muscle. If there be whys and wherefores, study them at your leisure, but the fact remains, and the average practical poultryman and farmer will be satisfied with nothing short of the facts. People who keep poultry want eggs when eggs bring the highest price, and they want to produce them at the least possible cost, and they must not forget that it is important to maintain the health of their flock and promote its growth. Every year people are demonstrating to their own satisfaction that raw bone, meat and gristle accomplish a result not obtained by the use of any other food.

Fowls demand raw animal food. Watch your hens in the summer time, and you will see them chase across an acre of ground to obtain a nice, fresh bug or worm, and when hens get this kind of food in abundance they furnish an abundant supply of eggs. It is the owner's business to supply his fowls with raw animal food in the winter season, for he cannot obtain best results if he neglects this. Properly cut green bone with meat and gristle attached supplies this food in the best possible form.

The most important elements in the egg production are the nitrogenous substances which are grouped together under the name "protein." Now raw bone and meat are especially rich in protein. Raw bone and meat furnish the hen with the proper material from which to make eggs at the lowest cost. But this is not all, neither is it the most important fact in estimating food values. There is protein in wheat and dried meat meal. Yet the hen will not lay as many eggs when fed these foods as when fed fresh cut bone. This is not a theory, but a fact, demonstrated many times in poultry yards, and by experiment stations.

Watch the hen who has her liberty. What does she prefer, a live, juicy bug or a dried up one? It is raw animal food she relishes, and it does her good; and it is raw meat and bone, not cooked nor dried, which makes her lay eggs. The protein in the raw food is more digestible than that in the dried or cooked food; she gets more out of it. Her system assimilates it all. But of greater importance is the fact that this raw food has a peculiar effect upon the hen. It makes her vigorous and active. It keeps her in health. It beautifies her plumage. It makes her offspring stronger, gives them more rapid growth, enables them to resist disease, and thus enhances the value, not only of the hen, but her progeny as well. Experiments everywhere have demonstrated the facts that cooked or dried foods are inferior in every way to raw bone and meat.

The proper use of this material insures more eggs, more fertile eggs, a better hatch, more vigorous chicks, produces a more rapid growth, matures broilers quicker, makes pullets lay earlier, stops egg eating, insures the flock against many ills, saves money in the grain bill, and makes every hen a paying hen. If there is anything you want to know about poultry, write E. C. Stearns & Co., Syracuse, N. Y., who issue valuable literature on this subject. They will tell you.

GROVE VIEW POULTRY FARM

Has choice B. P. Rocks, R. I. Reds and White Wyandotte cockerels, from strains of heavy-laying qualities of fine shape and beauty points, at \$1.50 to \$3 each. E. W. HARRIS,
223 Lowell Street, Reading, Mass. Electric pass.

Bred to Lay

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Bred systematically for layers by the individual record method. Eggs \$2 for 15; \$5 for 50; \$8 for 100.

C. BRICAULT, M. D. V., Andover, Mass

SINGLE COMB WHITE LEGHORNS

1000 Laying Hens.

Bred for Eggs.

Eggs from best matings (free range) \$1 per 15; \$4, 100.
W. M. VREELAND, Box F, Rocky Hill, N. J.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of January—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	35	30	32 1-2
Fowls, dressed....	12	10 1-2	11 1-4
Spring ducks, dressed....	15	14	14 1-2
Old Roosters, dressed.....	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Fowls, live.....	12 1-2	10 1-2	11 1-2
Roosters, live.....	5 1-2	5	5 1-4
Spring Chickens, live.....	10 1-2	9	9 3-4
Turkeys, live.....	12 1-2	10 1-2	11 1-2
Ducks, live, pair.....	.80	.70	.75
Geese, live, pair.....	\$1.50	\$1.25	\$1.37 1-2

PHILADELPHIA.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	30	28	29
Hens, live.....	12 1-2	10 1-2	11 1-2
Hens, dressed.....	12	11	11 1-2
Old Roosters, live.....	6 1-2	5	5 3-4
Old Roosters, dressed.....	7	7	7
Western Sp'g Chickens, live	13	11	12
Fancy roasting Chickens..	15	13	14

BOSTON.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape	36	32	34
Chickens, dressed.....	18	14	16
Fowls, dressed.....	13	11	12
Roosters, dressed.....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Turkeys, old.....	15	14	14 1-2
Live Chickens.....	10	9	9 1-2
Live fowls.....	11	10	10 1-2

CHICAGO.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	25	22	23 1-2
Chickens, hens, alive.....	10	9	9 1-2
Spring Chickens, live,	10	9	9 1-2
Roosters, live.....	5	5	5
Ducks, live, old.....	10	8	9
Turkey hens, live.....	10	9	9 1-2
Turkey gobblers, live.....	8	7	7 1-2

THE IDEAL BROODERS. Indoor, Outdoor, Sectional. \$5 up. Central heat. Absolutely sure supply of warmed fresh air under circular hover. Best yet. Ideal Brooder Co., East Mansfield, Mass.

BUFF ROCKS WHITE
WYANDOTTES
 Prolific layers of dark brown eggs. Up to Standard weight and bred to win. Eggs from first-class stock at honest prices. \$1.50 for 13; 50 for \$4.50.
HILLSIDE POULTRY FARM,
 Wickford, R. I.

Eggs-Kum

Makes the Eggs Come. If you aren't getting eggs now 'tis your own fault. A teaspoonful in mash to 30 hens. Price, 25 cts.; by mail, 31 cts.

Roupino.

Roup is a joke when you have Roupino on hand. It simply cannot fail. Price, 50 cts., postpaid.
CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO.,
 Boston, New York, Buffalo, Chicago.

WANTED!

Money earns 50 per cent. if you order now. I have hundreds of young stock on free range that must be sold. Many are from my

Choice Exhibition Matings.

Line bred since 1892, and bred to win. Also great Egg Producers, bred from best laying hens, and earliest maturing pullets, mated with proper males, line bred since 1833. Hundreds of cockerels, \$2 to \$5. Pullets, \$1.50 to \$3. Special prices on pairs, trios and pens White Leghorns, Black Minorcas, Barred Rocks, White Rocks, White Wyandottes and Light Brahmas. Elegant 32-page descriptive catalogue, free.

ELM POULTRY YARDS,
HARTFORD, CONN.

Many successful poultry raisers have learned by experience that the cause of a very bountiful supply of eggs in the fall and winter, when prices rule high, is proper care, feeding, and management, which they have learned by experience includes the use in the mash food, once daily, SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER. It helps to mature young pullets so they will lay when five or six months old.

They Succeed
Best

In keeping poultry for profit, who study cause and effect carefully.

No matter what kind of foods you use, SHERIDAN'S POWDER is absolutely necessary to cause the desired effect, namely, a well filled basket of eggs daily. It gets old hens over molting period quickly; it develops to laying maturity the young pullets. It causes perfect assimilation of the food elements needed to effect growth, prevent disease, and produce eggs. Costs one mill a day per hen.

One Hen
One Day
One Mill

It costs a mill a day—one cent every ten days—to make a hen a lively layer when eggs are high, with SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER. Calculate the profit. It helps young pullets to laying maturity; makes the plumage glossy, makes combs bright red.

Sheridan's
CONDITION
Powder

fed to fowls once daily, in a hot mash, will make all their feed doubly effective and make the flock doubly profitable. If you can't buy it we send one pack, 25 cts.; five, \$1. A two pound can, \$1.20. Sample poultry paper free.
I. S. JOHNSON & CO., BOSTON, MASS.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

Commercial Poultry, of Chicago, announces that E. S. Comings will hereafter represent them at the Eastern office (150 Nassau Street, New York) in place of C. J. Ross.

G. A. McIntire, Lock Box 480, Stamford, Conn., sent us a sample of his Electric Staple Driver, which is certainly a neat and useful device. Just the thing for putting up poultry and other netting, blind and slat stapling, and all sorts of odd jobs. It is remarkably cheap at 50 cents.

Winfield Darling, South Setanket, L. I., N. Y. Dear Sir:—The Advance Trap Nests purchased from you are A No. 1. I set them up and gave them a trial, and find they work to perfection. I can positively say they are the only nest that will work without clogging under all conditions. In fact, they surprised me, being so accurate in work.—C. H. Helme, breeder Barred P. Rocks, Miller Place, N. Y.

Keep a Poultry Record.

Every poultry raiser ought to keep an exact record of the doings of the chicken yard. The most convenient record we have seen is that issued by Humphrey & Sons, Joliet, Ill. It is simple and at the same time most complete. They will send a copy free to every one of our readers who ask for it. At the same time you might ask, too, about the Humphrey Green Bone and Vegetable Cutter—the easy bone cutter—guaranteed to cut more bone and with less labor than any other made.

The catalogue of the Blairsville Incubator Co. (who, by the way, are advertisers in A FEW HENS) is a business document from beginning to end. It is replete in useful information, does not over-rate the poultry business, nor under-rate other goods in their line. Instead they give facts and figures regarding the industry, and plainly show the merits of their goods. That is good business sense, and we should say that a firm that will be so careful in its announcements, will be equally careful in the construction of its goods. In these lively days of competition, it is the honest manufacturer of honest goods that commands the trade. A careful reader at once appreciates all this, and therefore we do not hesitate to call our readers attention to the Blairsville Incubator Co., in general, and their incubators and brooders in particular.

From Mr. John Sherman Helmer, Physical Director of the Young Men's Christian Association, Lorain, Ohio.

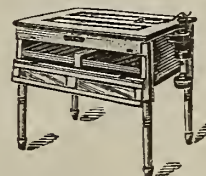
Lorain, Ohio, Dec. 12th, 1901.
 Mr. F. O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Maine.

Dear Sir:—The plan and specifications for your "Ideal" trap nest came safely to hand. Since receiving them I have given them a very fair trial in the pen. They have surpassed my highest expectations. The pen is made up of young pullets, and I thought I should find it a great task trying to educate them to use the traps. But I soon found that they took very readily to them, some that were not laying when the traps were instituted have found them without any assistance on my part. I like them very much indeed, and I take this opportunity to write that you may know how well satisfied I am with the "Ideal." You have a great trap, and it ought to find its way into the yard of every true fancier. Yours very truly,

[Signed] J. S. Helmer.

The Demand for Incubators.

Professional breeders in competing for prizes at the great shows generally exhibit artificially hatched poultry. The demands of chicken growers and breeders for very simple but reliable incubators grow greater each year. Geo. H. Stahl, of Quincy, Ill., manufactures incubators built on scientific principals and made of materials specially designed for the service they are to give, and so simple that they can be operated by anyone. They are of different sizes, the 50-egg known so favorably the poultry world over as the Wooden Hen, and the 200-egg, being an enlargement of the former. In these incubators heat, moisture and ventilation are automatically and perfectly controlled. They are surprisingly cheap, the price is only \$12.80 for a first-class 200-egg incubator, which claims to hatch every fertile egg. To anyone interested in chicken raising or breeding of any kind, circular and catalogue will be mailed free upon request.



OUR BROWN EGG

strain Stay White and Buff Wyandottes, Red R. I. Reds, Mammoth Pekin Ducks. 14 years line bred. Have vigor, correct shape, size, color. Prolific year-round layers, bred to win. Pedigreed by trap nests. Manchester, N. H., 1900-'01, my W. Ws. won 1st, 3d pens; 1st, 2d, 3d cocks; (tied 1st) and won 2d, 3d, 4th hens; 1st, 2d, 3d eggs; 11 specials. Buffs, 3d pen. R. I. Reds, 2d pen; 2d eggs. P. Ducks, 1st pr. Scored 92 to 95 each. All my Reds for sale, including show winners. Stock for sale. Established 1887. C. E. DAVIS, Warner, N. H.

26 Years a Breeder.
GEO. H. DEDERER,
 THOROUGHbred
 Barred Old Fashioned
 Plymouth Rocks. American Dominiques.
 EGGS, \$3 PER SETTING.
 MOUNT VERNON, N. Y.

1890. **VAUGHN'S** 1902.**Wh. Wyandottes and R. I. Reds**

are bred to lay and good enough to win.

Eggs from our best Winter layers, \$1 for 15; \$3 for 50; \$5 per 100. We also breed Buff Wyandottes and Light Brahmas. Egg orders booked now. Illustrated circular free. A few Buff and Red cockerels \$2 each. C. E. VAUGHN,
 LYONS HILL POULTRY FARM, Athol Centre, Mass.

WHITE Wyandotte eggs.—\$1 per sitting. Three, four and five cts. each by the 100. Directions given for making winter layers. E. T. Damon, Lancaster, Mass.

PRIZE STOCK and EGGS at farmers prices. All Standard varieties, bred for utility and points. Fine catalogue free. J. D. Sonder, Telford, Pa.

BELGIAN HARES. \$1,000 per year in your back yard. Town or country. Booklet and list free. SHADY GROVE STOCK FARM, Warrenton, Ohio.

PURE BRED R. I. REDS. Can furnish sittings of 15 eggs for \$2; two sittings for \$3.25. Your orders solicited. Also White Leghorns at same prices. J. M. BASOM, Coolville, Ohio.

BARRED and W. P. ROCKS and WH. WYANDOTTES. Pure bred stock only, for 20 years, and the best this year I ever owned. Eggs, such as I set myself, 13, \$1; 50, \$2.50; 100, \$4.50. E. D. Barker, Westerly, R. I.

STAY WHITE WYANDOTTES. Of course Shoemaker breeds them. He will ship you eggs that test 75 to 90 per cent fertile, from extra fine pens and best strains. Satisfaction guaranteed. \$2.00 for 15. For incubators \$5.00 per hundred. W. E. SHOEMAKER, Laceyville, Pa.

Farms in Health Resort. One to 40 acres. Poultry or Fruit. \$500 to \$3,000. Some bargains. L. MONFORT, Hammonton, N. J.

Green Cut Clover

one-eighth inch lengths, no long stems. \$1.20 per 100 lbs.; \$5.00 per 500 lbs. Orders filled same day received. Clover Meal 30 cts. higher per 100 lbs. Discounts on large lots. Special freight rate of 18 1-2 cts. per 100 lbs. to nearly all Eastern points.

1000 HEAD CHOICE BREEDERS

\$1.50 Each. Pure White Wyandottes, Mammoth Pekin Ducks, Red Belgian Hares. Selected from 15,000 raised this season. Formula of our celebrated Niagara Poultry Food, \$1.00. Poultry Supplies. Circulars free. NIAGARA FARM.
 W. R. CURTISS & CO., Box 2, Ransomville, N. Y.

White Wyandottes

Can furnish you with eggs for hatching from choice stock (Duston strain) at \$1.00 per 15. Fertility guaranteed. GEO. L. HOYT, South Salem, N. Y.

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Lambert strain direct. Carefully mated for best results. Eggs, \$1 per sitting. Agency for "Lambert's Death to Lice." A 25 or 50 cent box with your eggs would add nothing to expressage and insure a clean hatch. A. L. CONANT, Box 7, Hills Grove, R. I.

WHITE WYANDOTTES

Hawkins strain. Eggs, 15 for \$1; 30 for \$1.75; 50 for \$2.50. Breeders selected by trap nests. Record for 1901, 208 eggs. J. S. PAIGE, Athol, Mass.

POULTRY FARM

Capacity 1,500 layers. Six acres. Good markets. 120 foot brooder house. 850 foot laying house. All appliances and a great chance. Cheap at \$2,500. Lock Box 9, Ransomville, N. Y.

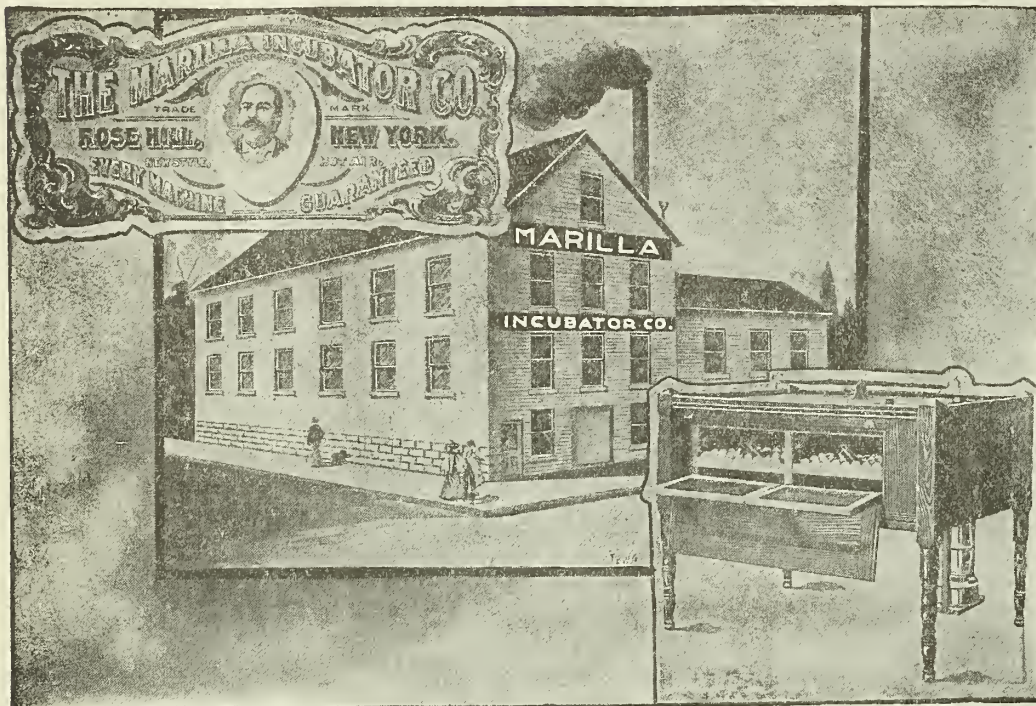
Mountain View Farms White Leghorns

have been bred for over ten years for heavy laying, by F. L. DuBOIS, on his farms at Loyd, N. Y.

Making Fancy Market Eggs a Specialty.

After using stock from Burpee, Knapp Bros. and C. H. Wyckoff, since '95, on my original stock, which were good White Leghorns, and with the results they are giving on my farms and with others, I am fully convinced of having as good a strain of S. C. White Leghorns, for eggs, size and vigor, as their exists today, as a test will convince you. Eggs for hatching \$1 for 15; \$3 for 50; by hundred \$5.

ALSO INCUBATOR EGGS for broilers, from a crossing of Plymouth Rock and White Wyandottes, mated this year to unrelated White Wyandotte cocks, \$4 per 100.

**THE MARILLA INCUBATOR.**

We believe our readers will be interested at this time in a few facts regarding this splendid machine. We present herewith an illustration showing the new factory of the above Company, located at Rose Hill, N. Y., in combination with one of their 200-egg machines, and the ornamental label which decorates and designates each incubator shipped out by them. Their factory is one of the most completely equipped of any in the country for the manufacture of incubators, and no machine is more highly regarded than the Marilla by those who have tried it. It is the result of nearly twenty years experience in practical incubation, on the part of its inventor, Mr. H. H. Blackman. His little work "Artificial Incubation and Brooding," has been most favorably received. Mr. Blackman first engaged in manufacturing his machine at Marilla, N. Y., but two or three years ago removed to Rose Hill, and incorporated the strong Company, with which he is now connected. Some of the special merits of the Marilla Incubator are these:—

First, the great care taken in its construction. It is built of Georgia pine, and highly finished in the beautiful natural color of the wood. The makers claim that it is the handsomest of all incubators. They say it is just as easy to make it attractive as otherwise, when you know how. The labor entering into its construction is all

skilled and of high order. Another important feature is the system of heating and ventilating, which is as perfect as can be devised. Mr. Blackman calls the regulator a "thermometer regulator," mercury being the active element, and as it is much more sensitive to variations of temperature, the control of the incubator is much more positive and instantaneous. There are many other advantages for which substantial claims are made, and these are fully described in the catalogue, which every reader ought to have. The machine is absolutely guaranteed in every respect, and is sold on an unconditional thirty days' free trial. A most remarkable list of testimonials is presented from those who have used it. Last season a grand prize of \$100 was awarded to the purchaser of a Marilla who obtained the largest percentage of hatch in three successive trials. This was awarded to Mrs. Miles Van Alstine, of Lansing, Mich., who from her three trials averaged 99 per cent. Many others had records almost as high. A number of sworn statements regarding these are given in the catalogue, of which 100,000 copies have been printed, and so far as we know, this is the largest edition yet issued by any incubator company. It is most attractively gotten up, and will both interest and instruct. It is sent to all for four cents to cover postage. Write for one before they are all gone. Marilla Incubator Company, Rose Hill, N. Y.

**Banner Egg Food and Tonic.****Now is the Time You Want Eggs.**

By feeding your fowls a little Banner Egg Food and Tonic your fowls will lay lots of eggs, and you can double your profits, as this is the season of the year when fresh-laid eggs are scarce. Remember, this Tonic does not force your hens to lay, it only brings them up to the pink of condition which is necessary for egg production. To those who have never used it, we simply ask you to give it a trial and be convinced.

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